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June 2020

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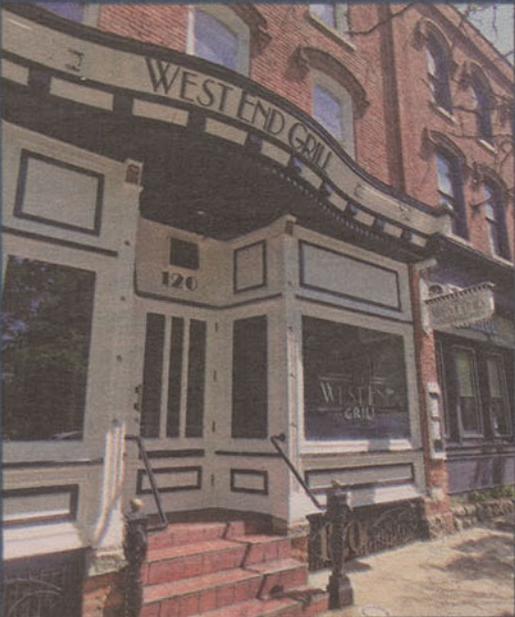
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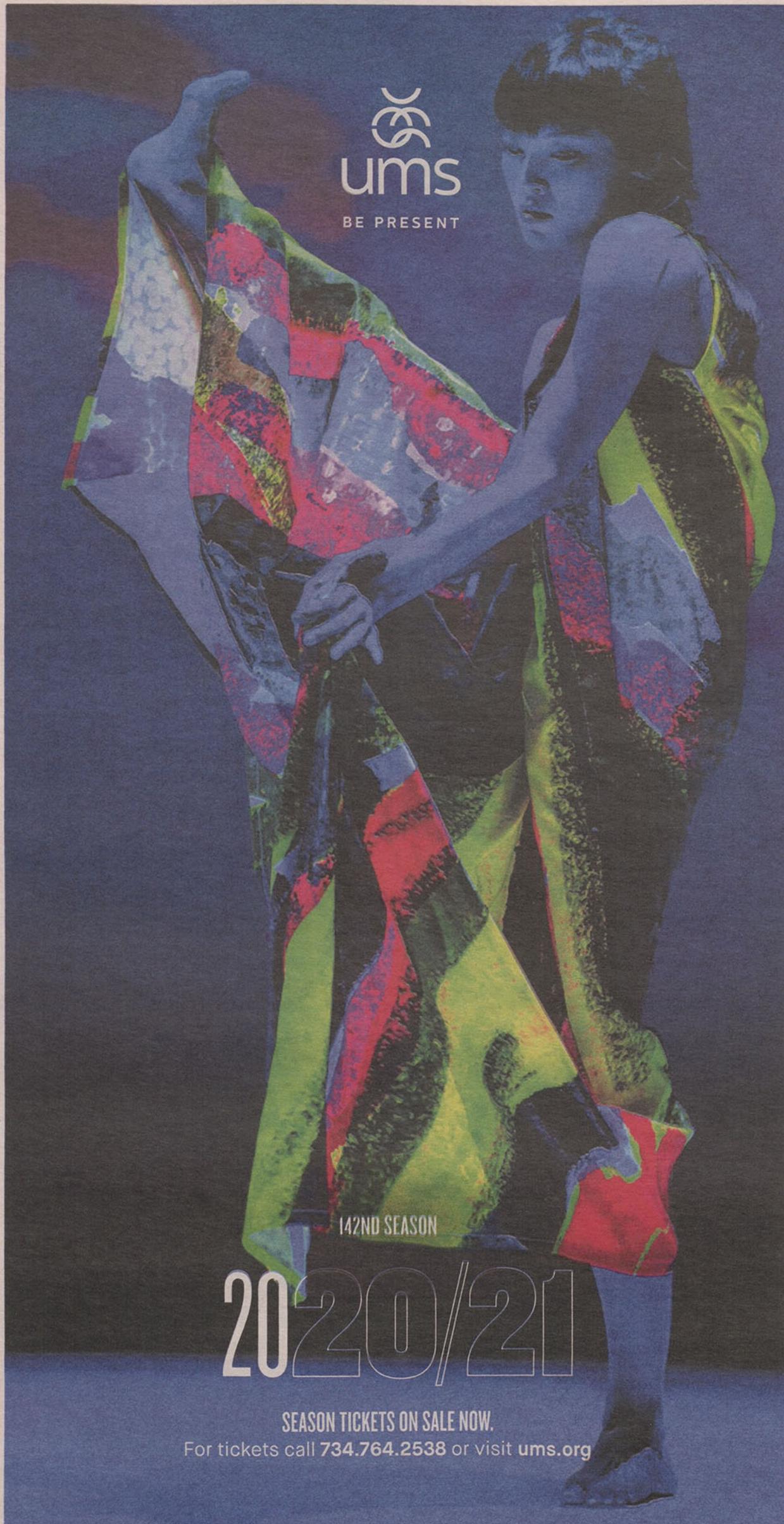
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Sat-Sun 12/5-6

Handel's Messiah

Sat 2/13

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Valery Gergiev, music director
Alexandre Kantorow, piano
UMS Choral Union

Sun 2/20-21

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Thu 3/18

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Gabriela Montero, piano

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Itzhak Perlman, violin

Sat 10/17

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Sat 12/12

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Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
Lisa Batiashvili, violin
Gautier Capuçon, cello

Fri 1/29

Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet

Sun 2/14

James Ehnes, violin

Sat 3/13

Sir András Schiff, piano

Fri 4/2

Joshua Bell, violin

Thu 4/22

Paul Lewis, piano

Sat 4/24

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Amanda Forsyth, cello**

DANCE

Fri-Sat 9/11-12

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Tue 11/17

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

Sat 1/23

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Cleo Parker Robinson
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Fri-Sat 2/12-13

Caleb Teicher Swing Company with Eyal Vilner's Big Band

Wed 2/24

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

THE ARAB WORLD AND ITS DIASPORA

Sat 11/21

**Layl (Night)
A Performance by Ali Chahrour**

Sun 11/22

Farida and the Iraqi Maqam Ensemble

Sat 3/20

National Arab Orchestra

Michael Ibrahim, music director and conductor
Abeer Nehme, vocals

Sat 4/10

**Øjfaw
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Cécile McLorin Salvant and Kurt Elling

FOLK TRADITIONS

Wed 9/30

Béla Fleck's My Bluegrass Heart

Wed 2/24

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

Thu 4/15

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THEATER & PERFORMANCE ART

Sat 11/21

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Ann Arbor Observer

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Cover: The dog park at Broadway Park. Collage by Brenda Miller Slomovits.



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UpFront

Covid campaigning: "I will not be going door-to-door until the stay-at-home order is lifted," says Ward Three city council candidate and democratic socialist Evan Redmond by phone. "It would be irresponsible."

Late May is usually when candidates competing in the August primary start hitting doors, using dedicated voter lists. It's by far the most effective way to campaign. But Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order ruled that out.

So they're thinking of alternatives. "My initial goal prior to the stay-home order was to knock 10,000 doors," says Ward Three candidate Travis Radina, an administrator at the U-M Alumni Association and the city's LGBTQ liaison. "Now I am thinking about [raising] more money so that we can add another or a couple more mailers."

"People are going to be pretty wary about face-to-face contact," says Ward One candidate Lisa Disch, "and they should be through this whole summer." The U-M political science prof says instead she's "phone banking."

Jack Eaton, Ward Four's three-term incumbent and a retired labor lawyer, emails that he hasn't knocked doors since the shutdown. But he has "been traveling through the Ward and engaging people who are already outside, while practicing social distancing."

Before the stay-home order, "I was going out and talking to a lot of households," says Mozhgan Savabieasfahani, an environmental toxicologist running against Eaton. "It only lasted a month." These days, "I am doing what I can on Twitter [and] Facebook."

Jen Eyer, a partner in Vanguard Public Affairs and former county board member who's also running in Ward Four, says

she's "doing Zoom meet-and-greets" for now. If hitting doors is permitted later in the summer, she says she would "wear a mask, knock on someone's door, and then step way back, maybe all the way to the sidewalk." She knows that might not be enough. Even if the state gives the go-ahead, "some people may not appreciate it."

Eaton puts it in perspective. "The challenge that the pandemic presents for campaigning is insignificant," he says, "compared to the impact it is having on the economic well-being of our residents."

And don't forget their health. Candidates' "walk lists" target people who voted in past primaries and skew strongly toward folks over sixty-five. For them, traditional campaigns could literally be life-threatening.

Building uncertainty:

Construction was one of the first industries Michigan allowed to reopen in May—but it wasn't immediately clear how much would actually occur. Scio Township supervisor Jack Knowles says that even he doesn't know if some projects are going to resume. A new retail development to the north of the Jackson Rd.

Meijer store was ready to start when the pandemic hit, with earth-moving equipment on site. "Now the equipment's gone, and I don't know what their plans are."

Ann Arbor building official Glen Dempsey says he's not aware of any cancellations in the city. But the biggest approved projects are campus-area high rises—and with the future of on-campus education uncertain, investors may well rethink them.

Both Dempsey and Knowles stressed that they're just beginning to assess the pandemic's effect on construction. "It's

going to take a while to see what the impacts are," Knowles says.

Work on the bike-pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks near Main and Depot streets never stopped during the shutdown—"considered essential continued without delay," Dempsey emails. Giant cranes installed three precast concrete tunnels overnight in May.

It was an impressive feat, but it didn't bode well for hopes of avoiding an infection "rebound." On two visits to the site that day, all workers were wearing hard hats and high-visibility vests—but many stood elbow-to-elbow, and not one wore a mask.

Weddings postponed: "I'm watching my 2020 year disappear," says event planner Kaeli Garcia.

Since early March, Garcia, owner of Luna Soirée (and daughter of Observer publisher Patricia Garcia), has been swamped with phone calls from frantic mothers, teary brides, and corporate administrators. "People are nervous and scared about the virus, and they're all canceling events in the foreseeable future," she says.

Most of her clients have chosen to reschedule in 2021.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about events planned for this fall, but I'm extremely careful about the contracts I'm negotiating and renegotiating now," she says. I'm making sure the verbiage very clearly spells out what happens in case of cancellations. The paper trail is keeping me very busy."

"The sooner a vaccine is available, the better off everyone will be, of course. I would love to see events happening sooner rather than later, but I certainly don't want to contribute to the susceptibility and spread of the disease."

Positivity posters: "We wanted to spread some cheer," says Valerie Molloy about the poster project she and her husband, Ryan, launched in early April in their Dicken neighborhood. Valerie, who works for Michigan Medicine in development, and Ryan, who teaches graphic design at EMU, offer the fluorescent-colored "positivity posters" free to passersby from a wooden stand near their house. Each saying in the series

(twenty-one at press

time) is designed to "make people smile," Valerie says, including, "You Got This," "Only Good Vibes," "Keep on Keepin' On," and "Do Good Things."

"I'd always wanted to do an art version of the Little [Free] Libraries I see around town," says Ryan, who was also inspired by the uplifting sidewalk chalk messages he saw in his neighborhood after the stay-at-home order went into effect. They use Valerie's flower photography for the posters' backgrounds, and Ryan overlays them with what he calls "word art on steroids." They crank out the posters—up to a couple hundred a week—on their basement Risograph machine ("kind of like a digital mimeograph machine," Ryan explains), and announce each edition via Next Door, Instagram, and Facebook. In good weather, the posters "go in a day," Valerie says.

When the Molloys walk their border-collie mix, Maddy, they enjoy seeing the posters displayed in neighbors' windows and on doors. Some posters have made their way to Ypsi and to Mott Children's Hospital—and others are en route to family and friends in their native Texas.

The Molloys plan to keep creating at least until the stay-at-home order expires, but, even when it ends, neighborhood art lovers should keep on the lookout. Ryan says he "might transition to an art pop-up."



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Inside Ann Arbor

Postal Peril

The death of one of their own brought the coronavirus home to local postal workers.

Ann Arbor mail carrier John Odegard started wearing a mask in early April after he heard that a local postal worker being treated for coronavirus symptoms was fighting for his life. "Holy smokes," he recalls thinking. "This is real!"

Art Serafinski, sixty-one, a manager based in the W. Stadium post office, died on April 20. Shaken, Odegard says, he became "religious" about keeping both mask and gloves on. "I'm constantly wiping down my vehicle," he says. "When I get home, I put my clothes in the wash."

Postal employees are considered "essential workers," and in some jobs, "you just can't do social distancing," says an Ann Arbor employee who asked for anonymity. People sorting packages "can't keep ten feet apart from each other." Serafinski, who was director of personnel for Ann Arbor, shared an office and filled in at the counter when needed.

Keith Combs, president of the Detroit chapter of the American Postal Workers Union, says that Serafinski was one of four Michigan postal workers who'd died of the virus by mid-May, and "at different times, hundreds of employees have taken sick leave." Those include those "exposed" but not ill and others who stayed home because of virus-related family needs.

"Management definitely could have done a better job" in preventive measures, he says. "Some stations were not receiving masks and hand sanitizers until recently." The Ann Arbor office declined comment and referred the Observer to Detroit-based spokeswoman Elizabeth Najduch, who said the office "was not granting interviews at this time." The anonymous Ann Arbor employee says that the Ann Arbor branches were slow to provide masks, but that they do now.



Four Michigan postal workers had died of Covid-19 by mid-May, including Ann Arbor personnel director Art Serafinski.

Plexiglas barriers to shield counter workers have also been added.

Odegard, president of the Ann Arbor local of the mail carriers' union, says he knows of "five or six confirmed cases" among the area's 200-some carriers, with others quarantining because they were judged at risk or their families needed them.

Odegard says that, while a few customers have complained of mail delays, "I've never seen the public so kind to us, even at Christmas time." Some have donated hand sanitizers and even toilet paper. But "we wonder what will happen when the [quarantine] order is lifted ... Will the public be respectful of the six-foot [distancing] thing?"

He's frustrated that "some people think it's a hoax." What does he tell them?

"No, it's real. Ask Art's family."

Generation Covid

"To say my life is up in the air is an understatement," says Shea O'Brien. "I feel lost."

O'Brien attends Community High School and plays sports for Skyline. He had just finished an outstanding hockey season and baseball

tryouts when the Covid-19 pandemic abruptly ended his senior year. "I had a terrific three-and-a-half years in high school, and then it came to a crashing, premature halt," he says.

Classes didn't end when school closed. In May, O'Brien still had to

complete eighteen required assignments, graded pass/fail, to earn his diploma. But "it's difficult to get fired-up about advanced calc now," he says. "I worked hard for grades in high school, but I have zero motivation to get up in the morning. I'm looking for a reason to get school-work done. Sports, friends, graduation ... they're all gone."

And what comes next is up in the air. He is on the wait list for the U.S. Naval Academy, but he also has a full four-year ROTC scholarship to the University of Southern California—which may, or may not, be in session in the fall. His required

ROTC boot camp this summer has already been canceled.

To fill his time, he plays video games into the night, sleeps until early afternoon, and works out a lot—with his younger sister rather than his friends. Once or twice a week, he and his friends arrange "car hangouts." They choose a parking lot, form a circle with their cars, and sit on the hoods to talk.

His father is telecommuting from home, and his mother is working hard to bolster the spirits of her four children. One day, she pulled out ancient videotapes, and the family watched scenes of his two sisters coming home for the first time. "That was cool," O'Brien admits. "And Mom's baking a lot of cookies—I appreciate that."

Skyline senior Elena Garcia-Schroeder says she was "pretty devastated" when in-school classes were canceled—"not just for myself but for the groups and activities I'm involved in and for the lost moments with my friends."

She was scheduled to sing a solo for the award-winning Skyline Blues' a cappella concert and had been chosen for the lead role in *The Little Mermaid*. She had bought her dress for prom and looked forward to graduation in June.

The pandemic canceled them all. At first, she says, she was "too caught up in my own feelings of loss. But Zoom calls, some socially distanced walks



O'Brien (in blue) had just finished an outstanding hockey season when Covid-19 abruptly ended his senior year. "I had a terrific three-and-a-half years in high school," he says, "and then it came to a crashing, premature halt."

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Inside Ann Arbor

with friends, and online resources have helped."

She and her closest friends were resourceful, too. On prom night, they slipped into their prom dresses, applied makeup and nail polish, just as if they were going to prom, and drove to the Skyline parking lot, where they met, careful to keep appropriate social distancing. She's continuing to work on her music at home with the Skyline Blues directors, and Skyline is considering some kind of graduation event, possibly in late summer.

But her summer job as a counselor at Camp Al-Gon-Quian remains in jeopardy, as do her freshman orientation session and first semester at Northwestern University. "The Northwestern president says he's optimistic that classes will resume on campus in the fall, but this is definitely another challenge to overcome," she says. "Many of my friends are thinking of postponing college enrollment and taking online community college classes to save money and stay safe."

Angelo Quail is at the far end of that academic trajectory: he was enrolled in a postgraduate music fellowship program in Florida when everything shut down. A gifted clarinetist, he has been counting on the program as a springboard to a coveted seat in a nationally renowned orchestra—typically U.S. orchestras hire only five or six clarinetists each year.

Instead, he drove home six weeks early to quarantine with his parents—and to worry about his career prospects. "Finding work in classical orchestras is predicated on having audiences—and our audiences are generally older, in the population that is most susceptible to the virus," he says. "Most orchestras are very fragile organizations that rely on individual donations ... I'm worried some orchestras will fold, and others, if they manage to survive the economic impact, may be forced to change the way they compensate professional musicians in the future."

Lauren Penrose saw the "most important part" of her last semester disappear overnight: her figure-skating team's performances, nationals, and ice show. National Honor Society awards night. Prom. Graduation. And hard-won second-semester A's will become "Pass." ("I did all the extra work for nothing!") She'll have to take AP tests at home, open book. And U-M orientation will be virtual.

"Actually, I think my sister, who is a junior, is as affected as I am," Penrose says. "She was supposed to take SATs this summer, but they were canceled. The next ones are in November, after most college applications are due. Sarah is a softball player who wants to play Division I, and she's concerned she won't be recruited because no one will see her play."

Garcia-Schroeder is struggling to keep missing high school traditions in perspective. "Absolutely nothing is like I expected my world to be right now. I can't say I don't have days when I'm sad and angry,"

she admits. But she understands that everyone's safety and health are the most important considerations right now.

"Our graduation is taking place in the Year of the Coronavirus. We'll certainly all have a story to tell in the years to come."

Budget Impact

Mayor Christopher Taylor says Covid-19 will hit the city budget "negatively, absolutely, massively."

Before the pandemic, Tom Crawford, the city's chief financial officer and acting administrator, predicted a 3.6 percent increase in recurring general fund revenue and 3.8 percent increase in property taxes in the fiscal year that starts July 1.

That was then. "We've got a couple of revenue streams that are going to be hit pretty hard," Taylor explains by phone from his home office. "State revenue sharing, which derives from sales tax, will be hit hard. The DDA [Downtown Development Authority], under our parking agreement, contributes 20 percent of the parking gross to the city. That's \$3.5 to four million a year to the general fund. In addition, the city also takes 100 percent of parking-related fines [and] a bunch of operational fees." With businesses closed and parking structures unattended to reduce the risk of transmitting disease, both are way down. Building permit fees and inspection fees will also take a hit.

Altogether, Crawford figures the pandemic's impact on the city's \$114 million general fund budget could be \$4.5 to \$5 million in the current fiscal year and \$6.3 to \$11 million for the next one. Because this is the second year of a two-year budget, Crawford emails that "no major changes are contemplated from the initial plan. However, with the impact of the coronavirus occurring at such a late stage in the budget development process, I anticipate modifications during the fiscal year as the economic impact becomes more clear."

Some small changes were made when council passed the budget in late May. They voted to postpone a couple of capital projects and to eliminate funding for next winter's deer cull. Bigger ones will follow.

"Staff will bring forward a number of recommendations for cutting and limitations," says Taylor. "There are some policies that we have with respect to over-funding of pension and VEBA [retiree benefits] that can be walked back. We put a couple extra million dollars a year into these things and this might not be a time for that."

Will we fix the damned roads? The city announced nearly ten miles of restoration projects plus nine miles of preventive maintenance work for this summer. Taylor says those will still happen because "most of the street repairs are not through the general fund. They're through the streets millage or through the street

fund. And so while funding for those functions will be reduced because some property tax will be reduced, they won't be taking the same level of hit."

Crawford emails that "all essential operations (Water, Police, Fire, Waste Water, Housing Commission, Solid Waste, etc.) remain sufficiently staffed to deliver services and back-up plans are in place to guarantee these services will continue to be delivered."

Fire chief Mike Kennedy's plans to replace or rebuild the city's aging stations are on hold for the moment—but Taylor notes that could change if Washington wants to pay for them.

"We are cognizant of the fact that stimulus funds love first responders," the mayor says—and "first responder related capital projects."

Fear of Calling

"Our paramedics are noticeably not as busy," reports Marc Breckenridge of Huron Valley Ambulance.

Breckenridge, HVA's spokesperson, emails that "overall, 9-1-1 call volume is down about 35 percent." The same pattern plays out at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's emergency department. Within weeks of the stay-at-home order, "the visit volume at our emergency room dropped dramatically to less than 50 percent of where we were at the same time last year within weeks," says David Vandenberg, St. Joe's chief medical officer. By mid-May there had been some recovery, but they were still down by "30 percent of our normal volume."

It's about the same at the Michigan Medicine emergency departments. "For the four weeks after the March 24th stay-at-home order, patient visits decreased by half in the adult emergency department and two-thirds in the pediatric emergency department," writes Robert Neumar, Michigan Medicine's chair of emergency medicine. By mid-May, "patient visits [were] 75 percent of baseline in the adult ED and 50 percent of baseline in the pediatric ED."

"A lot of factors" keep folks away, Vandenberg believes, but the biggest by far is the fear "there're patients there that have Covid." Others include the sheer difficulty of being hospitalized now with enforced isolation, increased tests, and restricted visiting.

In mid-May Covid-19 was accounting for about 25 to 30 percent of HVA's calls. But their calls for heart attacks and strokes were much lower than normal—"which is concerning because those kinds of common medical issues don't simply disappear because there's a pandemic," Breckenridge writes. "We're worried because it seems like more people are delaying calls to 9-1-1 until the last minute ... and possibly until it's too late ... for fear of going to the hospital during a pandemic."

"Our volume of critical ill presenting patients is definitely down," says Van-

denberg. "Heart attacks [and] strokes are clearly down. It's very dangerous. We want to reassure people that the hospital is safe. People need to recognize that it's far riskier to stay at home with chest pain [and] shortness of breath."

The good news is "our total volume of [Covid] patients is about a third of what it was," says Vandenberg. "There was a time when we were admitting as many as twenty-five patients with Covid [daily]. We've been coming down and in the last eight or ten days, it varies anywhere between zero and ten patients."

Neumar reports about the same at the U-M. "Over the past week the number of patients visiting the ED that have tested positive for Covid-19 has ranged from 0-1 in the pediatric ED and 0-5 in the adult ED. Overall, that is less than 2 percent of total ED visits."

"We're on the downside of that peak," Vandenberg says. "The whole community socially distanced at a higher percentage than the model expected even in the best-case scenario."

The bad news is the near-certainty of a second wave. "It'll be rural where they don't really have enough health care," says Vandenberg, "and that second wave will wind up back in our hospitals anyway."

"It's really important to realize we have to live with this," Vandenberg stresses. "The hospital has to be able to [care for] all patients, not just Covid patients." To do that, they're masking all physicians and patients when they're interacting, plus screening every employee and visitor.

"We're feeling optimistic that we've weathered the stormy days and we feel like it's probably going to make us stronger in the long run."

More possible good news: 9-1-1 calls about opioid overdoses also are down. It's possible that drug supplies have been interrupted by the shutdown—but also possible that users are as scared of Covid-19 as folks who might be having heart attacks and strokes.

Pandemic Weddings

When Erik Measel proposed to Emily Gordon in May 2018, she asked for two years to prepare.

They chose May 2, 2020. "I like to plan things, and I'm a perfectionist," Gordon says. "My goal was to have the perfect wedding."

She planned everything: invitations for 180 guests; hotel reservations; gowns and suits; hair, nails, and makeup appointments; the church, pastor, service, music, and vows; photographer; flowers; reception hall; caterer; table decorations; dance music.

The only thing she didn't plan for was a global pandemic. But while many 2020 brides decided to wait another year (see Up Front, p. 9) she was determined to go ahead.

On the last hour of the last day before David's Bridal shut its doors, Gordon received a call that her dress was ready.



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It is true, we (like you) jump for joy when Spring arrives. This year has been particularly nice for flower lovers. We have had only a day or two with modestly high temperatures - many days have been quite cool.

It is unusual for flowering Cherries to remain abloom for two weeks! They usually only last a few days because of heat.

Tulips have been spectacular and so are the Spring ephemeral wildflowers. Rare among these is the Twinleaf, Jeffersonia diphylla. We are, indeed, fortunate in Michigan!



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Inside Ann Arbor

"Come now. Otherwise, we're closing," she was told. Her mother jumped into the car and retrieved the gown.

In mid-April, they pared the guest list from 180 to fifty—the largest gathering allowed at the time. But then the limit shrank to ten. They called their attendants and guests again.

"Everyone understood," Emily said. "Safety had to come first. My ninety-five-year-old grandfather lives in Florida, and some of my family members and attendants live out of state. We told them we'd reschedule our reception and perhaps even repeat the ceremony."

"I actually think everyone was relieved that they didn't have to make the choice of whether or not to come out during a pandemic," she adds. "We bought a minicake from the Dexter Bakery and two \$15 flower arrangements from Meijer, which we tore apart to make bouquets for the flower girls and for me."

On May 2, Gordon curled her own hair, painted her nails, and applied her own makeup before heading to the church in her father's car. The only guests were two daughters, her parents, sister, a cousin who took photographs, and the minister. The ceremony "was lovely," she says. "It turns out I didn't miss all the details and trappings."

"We saved \$15,000 in the process," her mother, Teena Gordon, adds.

When the couple left the church, they were greeted by a procession of cars, honking horns, and colorful "Emily & Erik" signs waving from a safe social distance. One by one, the drivers processed past them, offering best wishes. Then everyone congregated in the parking lot, played music, and visited from safe distances.

The family returned to Gordon's childhood home, ordered takeout from Metzger's, and talked over the day's events.

Shortly before the ceremony, the bride had been furloughed from her engineering job in the automotive industry and the groom, also an engineer, was working from home. A week after their wedding, they were remarkably philosophical about all the changes in plans.

"Actually, everything turned out to be a blessing in disguise," Gordon says. "Instead of worrying about all the thousands of details that day, I could focus on what was most important: I was marrying my best friend and I had the most important people in my life—my parents, my sister, Erik's girls, and God—there with us."

"I have absolutely no regrets. My wedding was nothing like what I'd worked so hard for or envisioned, but it was a one-of-a-kind wedding. Now that May 2 has passed, I don't feel as if I need a redo at the reception. I'm completely satisfied."

Claire Tewksbury was also undeterred. She met her fiancé, John Grover, at a "Youth Encounter" weekend their freshman year of high school. By the time John proposed, they'd graduated from the U-M together and started their careers. "I gave him a ten-year deadline for a pro-

posal, and he beat it by a month," Tewksbury says, laughing. Two years ago, they scheduled their wedding for June 13, which may—or may not be—after Michigan's stay-at-home orders are lifted.

They mailed invitations in January. When the governor first ordered social and business restrictions in March, the couple decided to "take it one governor's order at a time." As the stay-at-home orders were extended into April and then May, they discussed all the options and agreed neither to postpone the ceremony nor narrow their guest list.

"We want everyone to know they're wanted, so we decided to leave the decision up to them, whether or not they'll be comfortable attending," she says. "I've had two coworkers who came down with Covid-19 and recovered, so we understand what's involved in people's decisions ... we've told everyone that we will 100 percent understand whatever decision they make. The wedding will proceed, recorded and posted online for friends and family members who can't attend."

She adds, "It was important to us to support local businesses when we made our plans and even more important now—we know how businesses are hurting. We made commitments, and we'll keep them." As soon as the shutdown was announced, Luella Acres in Dexter sent the couple an email promising, "We'll do anything to support you, including curbside pick-up." Their caterer, Frita Batidos, offered to serve plated meals rather than a buffet, and its servers will wear masks and gloves.

The couple does have a Plan B if state restrictions aren't lifted: a ceremony in the Tewksbury family's backyard. "My parents are pretty laid back, but I think they paled at the thought," she says.

"They immediately began working on their landscaping."



TEENA GORDON
Emily Gordon hadn't counted on a global pandemic when she planned her wedding to Erik Measel. She ended up doing her own hair and nails and tearing apart Meijer flower arrangements for bouquets.

calls & letters

Grogan's practice

Psychotherapist Marijo Grogan ("Self [Un]Employed," May) got in touch to clarify that she temporarily connects with clients through secured virtual access rather than in an office setting. She hopes to re-open her Ann Arbor office when the quarantine restrictions are lifted.

question corner

Remember that local artist's daffodil installation in the Arb a number of years ago? Who did that, and where have all the daffodils gone?

A. Susan Skarsgard called it "Imagine/Align." In October 2003, she organized 150 volunteers to plant a half-mile-long line of Narcissus Marieke bulbs. "The overall concept came from an idea to metaphorically draw an arbitrary line through an open landscape using daffodils as the medium," she emails. "The meadow area that your reader refers to, was mowed over too early about 5 years after the first bloom and the bulbs did not recover, so that's why that area has no flowers ... 16 years later ... there are remnants of the planting that continue to bloom every year ..."

Skarsgard has recently worked with General Motors to document its aesthetic history. Last October she published *Where Today Meets Tomorrow: Eero Saarinen and the General Motors Technical Center*.

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Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

Red-bellied Woodpeckers

A redheaded woodpecker by a different name

Among the avian neighbors who regularly dine at our backyard feeders, the male red-bellied woodpecker is among the most cheerfully elegant, his long, black-and-white patterned coat finished off at the bottom with a fine barred tail. With his whitish shirt, he needs only a white bowtie and waistcoat to be fully decked out in formal evening attire. He compensates by sporting an incredibly bright red cap that continues down and covers the nape of the neck. Especially in these times, it is uplifting to see this red-bellied bird making a dramatic entrance into the backyard, his costume silently shouting "Laissez les bons temps rouler!"

The female's outfit is pretty much the same, but she does dress down a little; those wonderful red feathers appear just at her nape.

The red staining on the lower part of the abdomen is sometimes hard to see; according to city ornithologist Juliet Berger, sometimes it is not even red and sometimes it is not there at all.

The "red-headed" woodpecker is another bird whose entire head is red. The speculation is that the red-bellied ended up with its name because the red-headed title had already been claimed. Berger asks that people use the correct common name when referring to the red-bellied woodpecker. Calling it "red-headed" could introduce errors in important bird count statistics—as well as sparking fruitless investigations by birders hoping to spot the now locally rare red-head.

The red-headed woodpecker may have won the naming contest, but it has lost something more important: its territory. Red-bellies are expanding their range northward, taking over territory formerly occupied by redheads. As an avid child birder growing up in Oakland County, Berger never saw a red-belly. It wasn't until she moved here that she saw one. Now they can be



found in parts of Canada as well.

One of our photos shows a red-bellied and a downy woodpecker on the same tree trunk. While red-bellies are classified as medium-sized woodpeckers, they are the biggest woodpeckers we regularly see in our backyard. The downy is the smallest. Seconds after the photo was taken, the downy quickly took off. The red-belly can be somewhat aggressive; the downy is definitely not.

Red-bellied woodpeckers do not migrate. We have seen a male in our backyard all winter long. Berger says it stayed on to defend its territory. He was all set up for the spring reproductive season.

Both birds incubate the eggs, with the male "taking the night shift," as Berger puts it. The female spends the night in a roosting cavity nearby.

In a time of social distancing and crowd shunning, looking for a red-bellied woodpecker makes for a good solitary pursuit. Berger suggests looking in a backyard, preferably one with some deciduous trees nearby. Our experience is that the odds of seeing one will increase dramatically if a suet feeder is put out.

Otherwise, look for them on or around deciduous trees, whether on farm woodlots, wild woods, suburban lots, or parks (having due regard to avoid times and places which draw crowds or have narrow paths). Look, too, along the Huron River and around wetlands.

The red-belly is a literal tree hugger, so look closely for one clinging vertically to the side of a medium or large tree. Its size, shape, and color make it instantly recognizable. Good luck with making the acquaintance of a red-headed red-bellied woodpecker!

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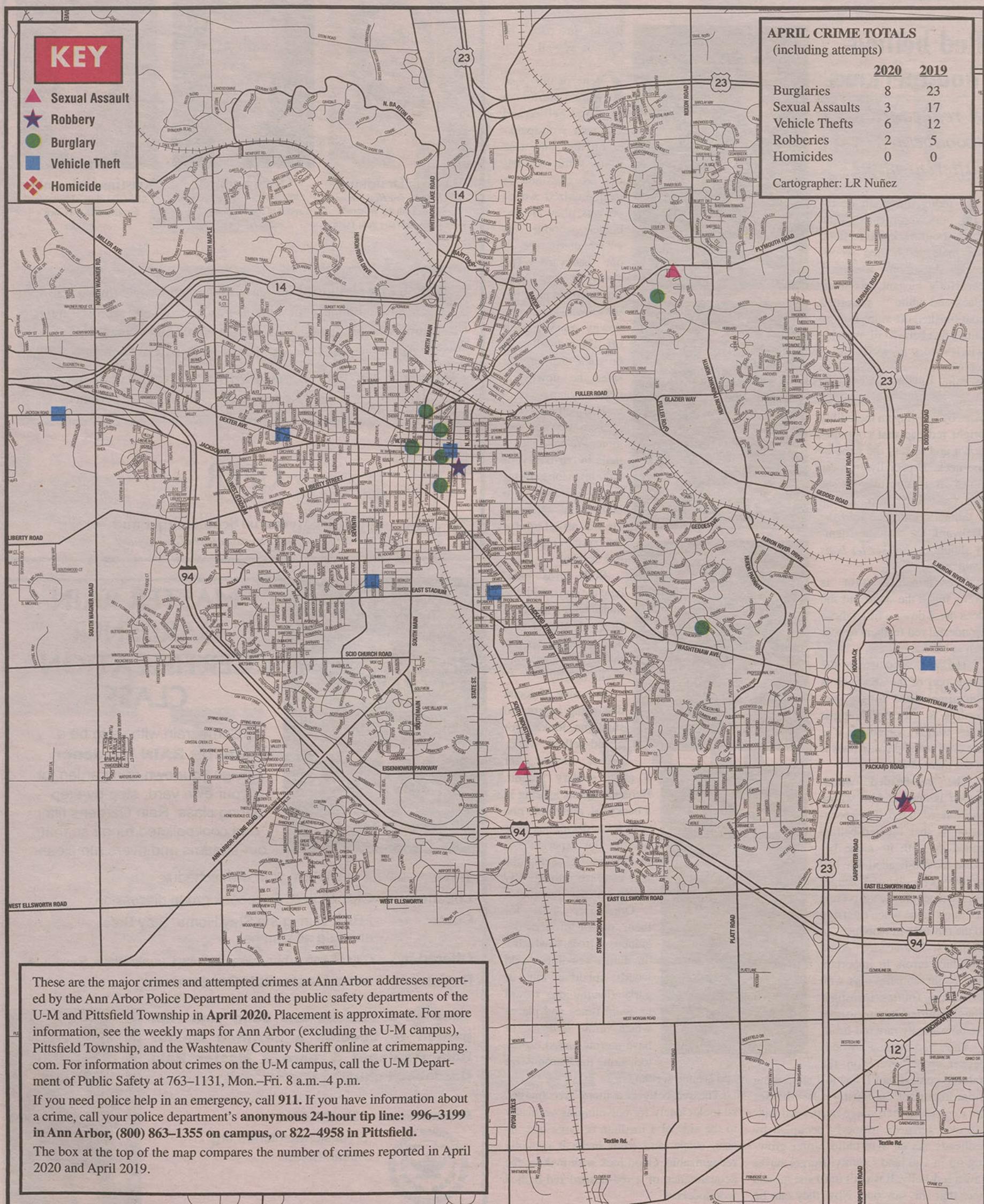
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Crime Map

KEY

- ▲ Sexual Assault
- ★ Robbery
- Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- ◆ Homicide



Then & Now

J.L. Babcock's Marriage Quest

A fortune made in wool brought him proposals from around the country.

Upon the death of his uncle, Luther James, in 1889, James L. Babcock became Ann Arbor's most eligible bachelor. He was thrust into this role due to the stipulations in his uncle's will: If he married within five years of James's death, Babcock would receive \$500,000, but he'd forfeit the windfall if he remained a bachelor. Apparently, James realized he didn't want his nephew to remain unwed and miserable like him.

When the terms of the will became known, Babcock was inundated with proposals from a bevy of young women and widows. Once the national press got the story, letters came to Ann Arbor from thousands of miles away and even from across oceans—so many that Babcock hired a secretary to respond to them all. But would he marry in time to secure his inheritance?

As the story was told in the *Toronto Republican*, Babcock had previously fallen in love with a beautiful young woman. The wedding date was set, but, according to the newspaper, Babcock's "dream of happiness was doomed." Evidently, James had voiced his opposition to the marriage, and Babcock had yielded to his uncle's wishes and called off the engagement. Some thought James's peculiar bequest was intended as partial restitution.

It certainly increased his options. Babcock reportedly received hundreds of letters, many with photographs enclosed. According to the *Pittsburg Dispatch*, they were postmarked from just about every state and territory in the U.S. Although the correspondence was from women of all ages, the paper reported, the largest group of correspondents was aged sixteen to twenty. Massachusetts was the state with the most sent by "old maids"—a category that at the time included women thirty-five to forty-five. Babcock told the *Chicago Tribune* that he even received two cables from Nottingham, England—the senders apparently were worried he might accept a proposal before their letters would arrive by steamer.

The *Pittsburg Dispatch* edition divided the letters into four categories: the gay and jocular; the serious and plaintive; the businesslike and emphatic; and the sentimental and advisory, like the one that urged him, "For pity's sake ... don't marry one of those women who think only of money."

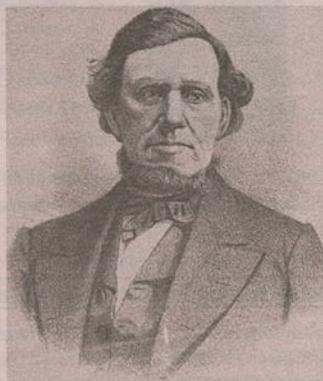
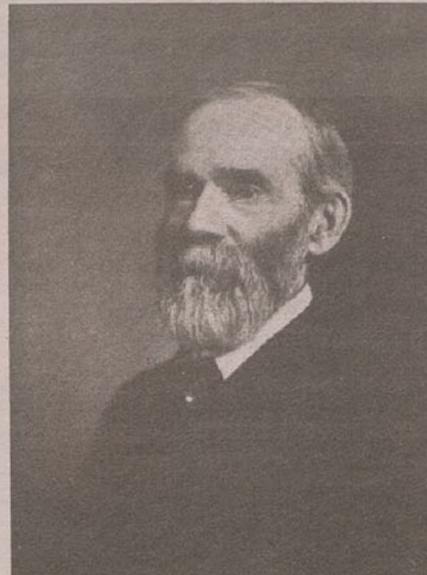
In an odd turn of events, according to the Waukesha, Wisconsin, *Daily Freeman and Republican*, Babcock received a number of letters from men, requesting the privilege of carrying on any superflu-

HE IS QUITE A CATCH.

WHY ALL THE GIRLS ARE AFTER MR. BABCOCK OF ANN ARBOR.

Curious Results of a Rich Old Man's Will
—A Nephew Who Will Lose a Fortune of Half a Million if He Does Not Marry in Five Years More.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 12.—This city contains a man who has the strongest belief in the powers of the press and in their circulation throughout the country. His name is James L. Babcock, and during the past three months he has been most thoroughly advertised through the records of a peculiar will made by his uncle, and by which he is to come into the possession of a large fortune if he conforms to the conditions of the will.



(Above) The Wells-Babcock house on Division St. (Left) Luther James made a fortune in Washtenaw County's booming 19th-century wool trade. (Top) James Babcock stood to inherit most of his uncle's wealth—but only if he married within five years.

ous correspondence he might have. Apparently, Babcock did refer some women to these men, but the women refused to hold correspondence with "second hand" parties. Like a contemporary Powerball winner, he also heard from men offering high returns on pie-in-the-sky investments or requesting loans, while others were not averse to downright begging.

James's wealth came from the wool trade. One hundred fifty years ago, sheep were grazing on hillsides in most farms in the county, and their wool was a hot commodity. According to Anne Rueter's article in the June 1983 *Observer*, in 1870 alone 188,000 local sheep produced one million pounds of wool, most of which was shipped from Chelsea to textile mills throughout the country. By the 1890s, wool was processed locally in six water-powered and one steam-powered factory. Production peaked in 1894, when 1.34 million pounds of wool was produced.

Babcock worked in the business and seems to have been financially secure even without his inheritance. In 1890, he acquired the 1858 Italianate Wells House at 208 North Division St. for nearly \$10,000. According to Samuel Beakes's 1906 *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, the property "was surrounded by beautiful and extensive grounds, richly adorned with flowers and ornamental trees and situated in one of the most delightful portions of the town."

sprung into publicity, on account of his Uncle's will, which left him \$500,000 on condition that he marry within five years." The reporter described Babcock as "young, handsome, engaging in manners; indeed, quite a matrimonial catch."

In his following week's edition, Beal informed his readers that the wrong man had been interviewed. C.E. Babcock was not J.L. Babcock but was in fact, a student at the University of Michigan, and a member of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity. Beal sent in a stringer for the sole purpose of embarrassing his rival when it picked up the Chicago story.

James's will specified that each of his two sisters, and several other nieces and nephews, would receive \$5,000. If Babcock did not fulfill the caveat in the will, they would share the windfall that otherwise would have gone to him.

In the end, Babcock did marry, with a year to spare. But he need not to have read all those letters. On September 30, 1892, the *Port Huron Daily Times* reported his wedding two days earlier to Miss Ella Stanley Butler of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Butler had been right there, under his nose, for years: Babcock had long vacationed during the summers in Waukesha with his uncle, mother, and aunt. On those visits he would see

Butler, but there was no hint of romantic interest on either side. The story is that he'd understood she was betrothed to another man; when he found that this was not the case, the pair soon married.

In 1894, after receiving his inheritance, the couple completely refashioned the Wells house to reflect their personal taste. Embossed wall coverings made of leather were brought in from Europe for the reception rooms; the carvings, mirrors, and marble were also imported. The Babcock coat of arms is commemorated in stained glass in the windows on the north side of a rear addition; other windows and doors featured refined beveled and etched glass.

After Babcock died in 1910, a third story was added to the Wells-Babcock house, and the mansion and carriage house were converted to multifamily use. Today the house sits within the Division Street Historic District.

—Dave McCormick



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Ann Arborites

Anne Curzan

Leading LS&A through the pandemic

"I actually was going to be a veterinarian," says Anne Curzan, the dean of the U-M's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. "For a long time, I was quite committed to the idea that I was going to be a veterinarian, because I wanted to be James Herriot," the British vet and author.

She grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. "My dad was an attorney who spun off his own consulting business," Curzan says, "and my mother was trained as a political scientist and taught until she had children, and she raised three girls." Curzan was the middle child.

Her mother "loved being inside the Beltway and in D.C. and kind of at the heart of U.S. federal/political life," Curzan says. But she also "spent every summer of her life in Good Hart, Michigan," where Curzan's grandfather, MSU president John Hannah, had a farm.

So that was her girls' summer, too. "I learned to ride horses when I was young," Curzan says. "And James Herriot took care of horses, and I thought that was all very wonderful."

She also "played sports since I could walk. My dad loved tennis and had us playing when the racquets were bigger than we were ... I was also a rhythmic gymnast. I was very serious about that from the age of about eleven until eighteen." She says sports taught her "a lot about discipline. I think I learned a lot about grit."

A scholar, too, she was admitted to both Stanford and Yale. "I was really excited about being in California," she recalls. But "when I visited Yale, it struck me as a place where being geeky could be cool, and given that I am at heart a total geek, Yale seemed like a great place for me to be."

She entered as a math major. "I loved math, and I took the intensive first-year math course. I was one of the few women

COURTESY ANNE CURZAN



in that course and did well." But sophomore year she took a course "on set theory that I could not master ... I had hit something in math that I couldn't get, and there was no one there who told me that I could get it ... That experience drove me out of math."

If she had it to do over again, she says, she'd double-major. Because that same year, she took a linguistics class "on the history of the English language with Marie Borroff, and I fell in love. I thought it was the coolest thing I ever studied." If you enjoy Curzan's Michigan Radio show "That's What They Say," you can thank Borroff.

After graduation, Curzan taught in Wuhan, China for two years. "I made dear, dear friends," she says, and she found her calling: learning and teaching about how English works.

Her U-M dissertation advisor, the late Richard Bailey, showed her "how linguistics could matter for real people in real time and how it matters for social justice issues." And Bailey introduced her to Geneva Smitherman, another Michigan PhD and a powerful advocate for the education of African American children.

"Her work blew me away," Curzan says. When she was awarded a collegiate

professorship, she named it in Smitherman's honor.

Curzan had previously been assistant dean, and her friend John U. Bacon says he was not at all surprised when Curzan was chosen to lead the school. "It's not just that she's a superb teacher. Anne is a badass marathoner, triathlete—hard-core," he says. "But academia is clearly where her heart is."

Bacon is also a fan of Curzan's grandfather. Hannah oversaw MSU's explosive growth after World War II, chaired the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and led international efforts to alleviate hunger.

Curzan keeps a photo of him in her office "to remember his guiding principle—'In the end, it is all about people.'" If he were here now, she emails, "I think he would take very seriously the challenges and look for opportunities to make the institution stronger, as he did for MSU coming out of WWII."

"I don't care what picture you paint," Bacon says. "Nothing is going to be easy going forward." The Covid-19 pandemic devastated both the university's educational model and its finances.

When the decision was made to shut down, "we had to take over 4,000 classes in LS&A and take them remote in four days," Curzan says. "That was the faculty

and the students, all of the staff, stepping up to make that possible. And they did it with generosity and grace and creativity."

Pointing to U-M president Mark Schlissel's May statement, she says that "We are cautiously optimistic that we can come back in the fall." To make that work, they'll need to rethink "how we work, and the ways in which we teach and learn.

"We're deeply committed to residential education, and we're learning a lot about both what we miss and can't do in remote places and what is possible in remote places," she says. "And so a key part of this will be reflecting on that learning and using that to build an even stronger community on campus when we come back."

"I honestly don't know what that's going to look like," she admits. "There's a version where I'm actually able to welcome people to campus because everyone's moving in. There's a version where I'm welcoming people more virtually, or entirely virtually."

But whatever form it takes, "I'm excited for the school year—the excitement for students of getting to explore classes and areas and questions that they may not have known that they wanted to explore, or questions they wanted to ask."

"I really want to get to think about what matters to them, what gives them purpose, what are their goals and aspirations, and how can we support them in getting there."

Along with her other skills, Bacon says, Curzan "could be a public intellectual. She is a great spokesperson for the liberal arts at a time when they're under attack—the inherent value of a degree in the humanities and the sciences for their own sake."

"But my very strong hunch is that she's going to be a president of a university," Bacon adds. "And if Michigan's lucky, she'll be Michigan's president."

Curzan says she's not thinking about that. Right now, she has LS&A to run.

"I care so deeply about the college," she says. "And my focus is: how do I make sure this continues to be a place where everyone can thrive?"

—Jan Schlain

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My Frontline

*Stocking shelves,
fearing infection*

As an employee in a grocery store during the pandemic, I have seen numerous changes in how we work and interact with customers. In the beginning, we had lots of traffic, and very few people wore masks or gloves. After the first stay-at-home order was issued, traffic decreased, and people started buying enough for two weeks or a month. But we still had hundreds of customers in the store at any given hour.

In the early stages of the pandemic, we had been discouraged from wearing any mask or gloves on the floor. It seemed like the focus was on the customers' perception of their safety, not the safety of the employees. We were scared about exposure, but sharing our concerns by speaking up risked alienating management. A lot of people chose to say nothing, even those at high risk for the virus or with a vulnerable family member at home. Some who did speak up were threatened—implicitly or explicitly—with losing their jobs.



It is unnerving to hear someone coughing just an aisle away from you. Although more people wear masks now, many don't adhere to six feet of distance. Some people pull down their masks to talk to you or while they're on the phone or just hang it around their neck while they shop.

A surprising number of people still come in to grab two to three items and then check out. It doesn't seem like a big problem until you realize how many people drift in the door every hour, increasing our exposure. Even after we were allowed to

bring our own masks, many went without because they couldn't find one.

Early on, there were no limits on how much someone could buy. We would see people with carts full of a particular item—especially toilet paper. The hoarders left behind empty shelves and irate customers, who vented at us.

We couldn't easily buy toilet paper or hand sanitizer, either. We could be stocking them and have no opportunity to buy them, because they'd be gone in minutes.

There are people who have thanked the employees for their work and been encouraging. That's nice to hear. But it's been frustrating to see how others behave.

Limits on high-demand items are often ignored. Plenty of people show their selfishness by taking double or triple the limit of an item, and when reminded, some become verbally abusive. Stock that should last half the week is gone in hours.

Reaching Out

Recovery in the pandemic

After forwarding a variety of news stories to a friend in Las Vegas on January 21, as an afterthought I texted, "Watch this Wuhan, China event, they've shut down a city of over 50 million people. Imagine if that would happen here. First case in the U.S. has just arrived, wash your hands."

"Eh," Tyler replied. "These virus scares always turn out to be duds."

We moved on to other topics. But since then, so much has changed so fast that it's hard to put into words what is transpiring. For me, the hardest part is realizing

that everyday things taken for granted just weeks ago may not return anytime soon—from casual interactions at work to worship services to the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings I've attended since being jailed for drunk driving ("A Sobering Experience," March 2017).

Traditionally, AA meetings end with everyone holding hands and reciting the Serenity Prayer or Lord's Prayer. The hand-holding ended in early March. Then, as the reality of people testing positive and dying sank in, everything went virtual.

The Alano Club set up numerous online meeting options. But along with Zooming, the shutdown introduced another new term to our lexicon: Zoom Bombers, individuals who crash virtual meetings to lob expletives and derisive comments at the attendees.

These reckless antics suggest the workings of aimless teenagers huddled in basements. But they do real harm. When recovery groups have to require passwords to enter meetings, they also make it harder for people who need to be there. Particularly now, as forced isolation can lead to increased alcohol and marijuana consumption, those with additional burdens of addiction need more contact with others, not less.

It's eerie watching history happen in real time, with no sense of how it will end, or even what an ultimate return to normalcy will look like. But connecting with others does make the isolation less, well, isolating.

On my birthday, more people replaced the generic thumbs up or per-

In most retail settings, the workers are there because they need to make money. We can't afford to take time off or quit. If we get sick, we'll get a paid break to recover. But until then, we have to keep putting ourselves at risk.

There are periodic reminders of that danger. News stories about retail workers getting sick or dying have become more numerous. Or it could just be someone coughing and sneezing down the aisle from you.

I want to end on a positive note. I am thankful to have a job given the current levels of unemployment. I've heard several stories from customers about job loss or about retirement being jeopardized due to the pandemic. I'm aware of how tough things could be.

Right now, I'm able to buy groceries, pay rent, and know that I have steady prospects for employment in my line of work. That is something I can be grateful for.

Lastly, I am grateful to those customers who are courteous, respect posted product limits, and follow CDC guidelines by maintaining six feet of space, wearing a mask/face covering, and limiting trips. Your behavior benefits a lot of people.

—Anonymous

functory "happy birthdays" on Facebook with texts or calls. Friends I haven't talked to in decades got in touch to revisit better times from our shared pasts, ending our conversations with the hopeful refrain to "stay safe." Especially for people struggling with addiction issues, such reaching out may be the gift that turns someone's isolation and fear into a sense of renewed hope and optimism.

My conversations with Tyler, currently unemployed, now focus mainly on the pandemic—when it will end and how it will affect us in the coming weeks and months. Uncertainty permeates our discourse.

This "virus scare" has turned out to be anything but a dud. Stay safe.

—John Allen



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The Survivors

Covid-19, and after

by Trilby MacDonald

By mid-May, the Washtenaw County Health Department had recorded 1,235 lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 235 more "probable" ones. Ninety people had died, some were still receiving care, and 1,048 had recovered.

We asked some of the survivors to share their stories.

Lucy Ann Lance is the longtime host of the "Lucy Ann Lance Show" on WLBY radio. She and her life partner, Doyle M. Barnes, contracted Covid-19 at the beginning of April. Both were hospitalized at Michigan Medicine, where Barnes succumbed to the disease on April 11.

Barnes had survived several strokes and suffered from Parkinson's disease. Because of his health issues, Lance had been broadcasting from home long before Governor Whitmer's stay-at-home order. She avoided stores and believed she was being extremely careful, but she did make one trip to Walgreens. "My symptoms started a couple days later."

Her first symptom was smelling an awful odor. "I thought an animal had died in the house!" she says. She developed a slight headache and some flu-like symptoms but no fever. Her request for a Covid-19 test was denied because she had a normal temperature.

"I wonder, if we had gotten that test earlier on, would things have turned out differently?" she asks. Her symptoms got worse, and Barnes started to exhibit symptoms. Suddenly things got much worse and they both went to the hospital in an ambulance.

"On Tuesday, two days after we got to the hospital, they told me I qualified for [a clinical trial of] the new drug remdesivir. I got an infusion for an hour a day every day for the duration of my stay"—eight days. "That's what turned the tide for me. I begged them to give it to my Doyle, but

they said he didn't qualify because of his underlying conditions."

Lance says the hospital staff were extremely kind to them. A nurse told her that when she pushed their beds together, Barnes's oxygen levels improved. "My heart lit up," says Lance. "He knew I was there, and I was going to be sure everything was okay for him."

"So many families weren't able to be with their family members as they passed out of this world. If I had to be sick to be

supposed to do." When asked if she has a message to share, she replies, "Every day there is joy. Just wait until tomorrow—you never know what it's going to bring."

André Naylor, eighty-eight, arrived in Ann Arbor from the Netherlands in 1958 as a student at U-M. She married an American and they had four children. Two are still in Ann Arbor, and two live in California.

Naylor keeps in close touch with her family and believes she contracted

checked into St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

"I have nothing but great things to say about the ninth floor; it's a beautiful place to be sick," she says. Naylor was impressed by the level of care and extensive precautions staffers took to contain the infection, including changing PPE each time they came into her room. No visitors were allowed, but one of her daughters in California kept in touch with her health care providers by phone.

Naylor was too tired to speak to anyone at first. "I got oxygen, which was my main savior. I didn't notice that I couldn't breathe. I didn't cough much—just a short, dry cough. But I wasn't absorbing oxygen. I thought I was all there, but my daughter told me that I was in and out of consciousness." Because she was asleep most of the time, Naylor didn't realize how sick she was. "I only had one second when I thought, 'Oh no, if I die I will leave a big mess,'" because she had not gotten her affairs in order.

(Clockwise from upper left) Lucy Ann Lance and Doyle Barnes fought for their lives side by side at University Hospital.

John Hinchey and Pat Forsberg-Smith got sick early, and only recognized their infections in hindsight.

Nurse LaTrivia Peterson sent her fiancé Wayne Wade to the hospital just in time.

Shawn Gullett-Naylor's family "started dropping like flies." Eight family members had symptoms, including her husband Dirk Naylor and father Ray Gullett. All survived.



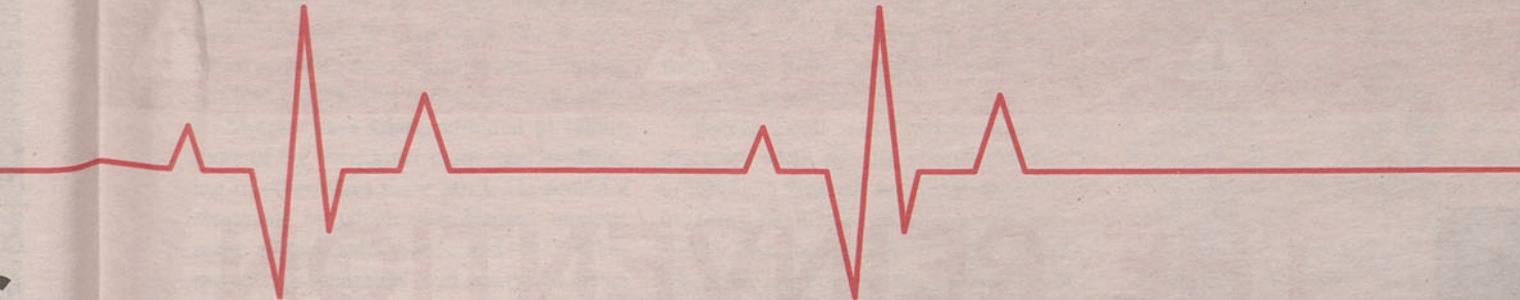
able to
be with
Doyle at
the end, I'm glad I
got sick."

She returned home alone but surrounded by love. "My neighbors are incredible. They bring food to my house every day. They walk my dog. The love and support on social media! People I don't even know were sending me cards."

She has had some dark times. "There were moments when I thought I couldn't go on air again. I thought I would have to find something else to do. But getting back on the air was the best thing for me. We are who we are, and we do what we are

Covid-19
from her son
Phillip, who developed symptoms soon after a visit. Before long, most of her Ann Arbor family had the virus.

Naylor first noticed symptoms on March 27. "I was extremely sleepy. I could sleep all day long." She felt hot but didn't believe she had because her fever was only 101. Her daughter gave her an Oximeter to keep track of her oxygen levels, which were low. She tested positive on April 2. Her oxygen continued to drop, and on April 7 she



Naylor was released after four days. Her son brought her home, where she lives alone, and he and, later, her daughter stayed with her until April 22. "My neighbors were fabulous. They put hearts on my door and the windows."

Naylor attributes her relatively quick recovery to her strong physique. "I am very healthy. I swim, I ride a bike, I walk. One of the doctors also said I recovered so well because of the strength I had going in. I'm a good, hardy breed."

Shawn Gullett-Naylor, fifty-six, is married to André Naylor's son Dirk. She is a hairdresser who has lived in the Ann Arbor area her whole life. On March 20, her son Troy, twenty-four, was the first in the family to exhibit symptoms of Covid-19. He did not get tested but quarantined himself in his room and recovered in about a week.

"Pretty soon, we just started dropping like flies," says Gullett-Naylor. Eventually, she got the virus, along with Dirk, fifty-six; her brother Phillip Gullett, sixty-eight; her mother-in-law André Naylor, eighty-eight; her sister-in-law Mary Gullett, seventy-one; and her ninety-year-old father, Ray Gullett.

Ray Gullett was hospitalized on March 29. He spent twenty-one days in University Hospital but never needed a respirator. He has since returned to his home, where he lives alone. According to his daughter, his motto is "You can do anything you put your mind to."

Gullett-Naylor's own symptoms were not the ones typically associated with Covid-19. "I cleared my throat constantly but never had a cough. I never had a fever. The fatigue is the thing that is the most noticeable about this. Dirk didn't have a fever or cough, but he got the toe thing, and so did I and my brother. My middle toe turned brown."

Gullett-Naylor suffers from colitis and went to the ER with stomach cramps on April 5. The care she received during her three-day stay at St Joseph Mercy Chelsea was "amazing," she says, although the experience was strange because of the masks: "You can only see the eyes of the people who care for you."

Gullett-Naylor was tired at first after returning home, but has since rebounded completely. She is grateful for the love and support she received from friends and neighbors and is relieved to have the whole thing behind her.

Asked what she has learned from the experience, she says, "We have to be more compassionate with each other. We need a

bigger sense of community. When I started going to Meijer or Target, even though there is a big sign on the wall saying 'You must wear a mask,' there are so many people strolling around like nothing is going on. That to me is troubling."

John Hinckley and Pat Forsberg-Smith.

Hinckley is officially retired as the Observer's calendar editor but jokes that he still "haunts" his successors. Forsberg-Smith is twice retired, as an AAPS music teacher and massage therapist. Both are in their seventies and lived in fear of getting Covid-19. But because they contracted it so early—Forsberg-Smith in late January, Hinckley in mid-February—they were never tested and didn't suspect that they had the virus till after they'd recovered.

"Had I known that I had it at the time I would have been terrified, but instead

ble flu. Hinckley is amazed they got off so easily.

"I don't win lotteries or contests; I am not that lucky," he says. Escaping with a relatively mild case of Covid-19, he says, "I feel that I have used up most of my good luck for the next decade!"

Wayne Wade spent his forty-ninth birthday in the hospital, and is extremely happy to be alive. He says he is "healthy as a horse," and had been in his new position with the human resources department at Metropolitan Detroit Area Hospital Services for six days when he started to feel ill on March 24. He did not want to take time off but had no choice. His incessant coughing worried his fiancée, LaTrivia Peterson. A nurse at the VA Medical Center, insisted he go to St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor on the 26th. The next day, he was on a ventilator fighting for his life. He was on

it for a week and spent three weeks in the hospital.

Peterson had the foresight to pack his phone and charger, which became his lifeline. "They were getting ready to put me on the vent, and I was shaking. They asked me to call my family before, and I was so scared. I looked at Mary, my nurse, and asked if she would be willing to hold my hand. Of course, being the guy that I am, I cracked a joke—'dead man rolling!—on my way to being intubated. I figured I would go out in style."

While on the ventilator, Wade experienced powerful hallucinations. "I was telling stories, I was all over the place. I felt like I was awake the whole time but kept warping to different dreams." According to a respiratory therapist who came to visit him later, this is a common experience.

"St. Joe Hospital has an amazing staff," Wade says. "They were phenomenal. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it."

Wade is working from home but is still not 100 percent. "It takes about three weeks to get the fog off of your brain. When you are in bed that long, you lose the strength in your legs, and trying to walk is a whole new experience."

Reflecting on his brush with death, Wade says he wants to spend more time with his family. "When you come that close, it does stay with you," he says. He is also concerned by the number of people who continue to doubt that Covid-19 is dangerous."

He wants to "spread the word and tell people this is real. I have some family members that are posting that this is a hoax even after I had it. We need to get people to take this seriously. It was just awful."

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FACEBOOK

Real is how I do things," therapist Jo Benson writes on her website, AllYourTruth.com.

Benson, who's currently conducting her practice online, invites prospective clients "to start walking around in the shoes of the woman you know you're meant to be."

Benson's website notes her BA from St. Louis University and MSW from Boston College. Her profile on PsychologyToday.com says she specializes in PTSD and other types of trauma, eating disorders, and women's issues. And it offers hope in a stressful time.

"You feel like you're drowning and because of all this social distancing, you don't have your friends or normal distractions to help," Benson writes. "You thought you had gotten past all your 'food issues' but they're back and now your kitchen feels scarier than this pandemic." She urges prospective clients to "imagine feeling confident to let go of your worries about your body ... Imagine a life where you don't hate yourself, where you feel seen and understood."

On her website, she describes herself as an expert on eating disorders, shame, sexual trauma, rape culture, and resilience. And she says she can help "rebuild your opinion of yourself after someone else's [opinion] made you crumble."

Benson knows a lot about rebuilding opinions and imagining new lives, because she's done it herself. Until this past December, Ann Arbor therapist Josephine Audre Benson was Portland, Oregon, therapist Emily Marie Clark.

As the Observer went to press, that rebranding was still a work in progress. Benson's Instagram account, @all.your.truth, included inspirational messages signed emilyclarkcounseling. The articles on her website's "speaking and writing" section bore Emily Clark's byline. And though the "contact" page gave her location as "Ann

Arbor, MI 48105," the map pinpointed Clark's former office in Portland.

Those digital fingerprints are traces of a turbulent past. In December, Clark surrendered her Oregon social work license to resolve complaints dating back to 2016. She was barred from practicing in the state for five years and would have to undergo a psychological examination if she ever applied for a license there again.

Afterward, an Oregon official emailed another complainant, a disillusioned former client. The woman, who asked not to be named, shared that message with the

as in Oregon" by not responding to initial complaints.

"Licensing is designed to protect the public," he says. "But most social workers are highly ethical, and the system's not set up to handle someone like Emily Clark."

The former client—we'll call her "Marcia"—says she was referred to Clark as a specialist in trauma recovery and eating disorders. She turned to her for help with body-image issues and negative comparisons to high-achieving

In the spring of 2018, Marcia says, a plaque on Clark's door proclaimed her new status as a fully licensed social worker who no longer needed a supervisor. She "made a big deal of it," Marcia remembers.

But early last November, Marcia says, Clark told her that she would be "rebranding" herself as a life coach. She said it was necessary because she'd been mentoring social work students in other states, which was not allowed by her license. Marcia accepted the explanation, as she did everything Clark told her.

"There were no red flags, because I wasn't looking for any."

She was so impressed, in fact, that she wanted to recommend Clark to a friend. But when she looked for Clark's website, she found it had been taken down. And when she Googled Clark's name, red flags were flying.

A September article in the Vancouver, Washington *Columbian* reported that Clark had finished an astounding second in the women's division of the Apple Tree half-marathon in Vancouver. But the glory was short-lived. According to the paper, "some of the race's faster runners ... said that Clark was not among them earlier in the race. Photos from on-course race photographers were reviewed and did not show Clark among the race's fastest women."

The cheating was first reported by Derek Murphy on marathoninvestigation.com. Murphy, who lives in Cincinnati, describes his site as a hobby that's turned into a second income by becoming an essential resource for race organizers and runners.

Murphy says he wasn't surprised to hear from the organizer of the Vancouver race. He'd been alerted months before by a runner suspicious of Clark's results and knew she had previously been disqualified in runs in Eugene, Oregon, and in Chicago.

Murphy wrote that the Vancouver race organizer had seen Clark riding a bicycle

WILLAMETTE WEEK RE- PORTED THAT SHE HAD NEITHER ATTENDED NOR WORKED AT HARVARD.

Observer. It promised that the settlement agreement would be posted on a federal registry, which "reduces her chances of getting a license in social work" in another state.

The Observer was unable to find such a posting. But if it exists, it wasn't much of a barrier. On January 10, according to Multnomah County court records, Emily Clark got a parking ticket in Portland. By March 13, Jo Benson had a Michigan social work license.

AllYourTruth.com lists Benson's license number. The state's online database confirms it's valid and says there are no "open formal complaints" against her. But Andrew White, a former boss who is one of the Oregon complainants, is dismayed that the Michigan licensing board seems to be following "the same pattern

siblings.

Clark "portrayed herself as this feminist heroine overcoming bias" related to body size, recalls Wayne Scott, an Oregon social worker and lecturer on professional ethics who for a time was Clark's supervising therapist. Marcia says that Clark often held up her success as a marathon runner as evidence of what a woman can do if she believes in herself, describing her own highly ranked finishes as triumphs over low expectations for women runners who weren't thin.

Marcia says she also used her own achievements as object lessons in overcoming intellectual obstacles. On her office wall, right above where Marcia sat, hung three diplomas—the most impressive a Harvard MS in neuroscience. Marcia says she often referred to her Harvard research.

THE REINVENTION OF A THERAPIST

JO BENSON PROMISES TO HELP WOMEN STRUGGLING DURING THE PANDEMIC. BUT CLIENTS HAVE REASON TO BE WARY.

BY MICHAEL BETZOLD

during the race—but when confronted, claimed it was her twin sister. She doesn't have a twin sister, and when Murphy emailed to advise her to come clean, she did.

Murphy says Clark admitted to biking most of the Vancouver race—and to cheating in other races since 2013. He posted a statement in which she blamed anxiety, panic attacks, shin splints, and “fear of being seen as incapable” and vowed “to be an honest athlete from now on.”

But she wasn't honest with her followers on social media. On Instagram, she wrote that she'd “been disqualified from races because they ‘found it impossible to believe that someone of my build could hold these paces.’”

Days later, she posted another improbable time in the Chicago marathon and was disqualified. According to an article in the *Willamette [Oregon] Week*, she said that asthma attacks had caused her to miss checkpoints.

Once they're exposed, serial cheaters usually stop, says Murphy. “It was really unfathomable,” he says, “to be caught and then go out and cheat again. It blew my mind.”

It turned out the racecourse wasn't the only place she'd been cheating. *Willamette Week* reported that Clark had neither attended nor worked at Harvard.

The flood of revelations was “jarring and shocking,” Marcia says. “We'd built trust between us. Now I was questioning everything about her.”

Marcia canceled further sessions with Clark and started monitoring her social media. She says she watched as the therapist wiped clean some of her online personae and rebranded others: her LinkedIn and Facebook profiles went dark and the name on her Instagram account changed, first to “heyEmilyhey” and then, as the year waned, to “Jo Benson.”

By then, more than three years had passed since Andrew White first complained to the Oregon social work licens-

ing board that Clark had misrepresented her credentials. He says he followed up with many more complaints about her in the ensuing years.

Wayne Scott was Clark's supervising therapist when Marcia started seeing her in 2017. “I finished my work with Emily in spring 2018,” he emails. He says he was “under the impression that she had finished the required hours, passed the test, and was done with supervision.” So last year, he was “mortified” to discover that her PsychologyToday.com profile still listed him as her supervisor.

“She really pulled the wool over my eyes,” Scott says. “She's an expert at shaping her own narrative.”

Scott, too, filed a complaint with the licensing board. He says they didn't respond, but when Marcia contacted him with her own concerns, he recommended she add her complaint to the others. Marcia's complaint noted: “During the twenty-three and a half months that Emily was my therapist … she was unlicensed or had an inactive license for nineteen of those months.”

Asked why the Oregon board took so long to act, the state's senior compliance specialist Mindy Tucker blames “a backlog of investigations.” Tucker and Scott say that Clark hired an attorney who was able to block inquiries into her client records. Though the board noted that she had falsely promoted herself as a fully licensed social worker on her website, in social media platforms, and on podcasts, she was allowed to surrender her license and forgo a formal hearing.

The Observer emailed questions to the address listed on AllYourTruth.com and left messages on the contact phone number. At press time, there had been no response.

If Emily Clark legally changed her name to Jo Benson, we could find no re-

cord of it in Washtenaw County or in Oakland County, where she grew up and where her parents, David Clark and Carolyn Romzick, live. Both dentists, they share a practice in Farmington Hills. Reached there and asked about their older daughter, Clark replied: “I'm afraid I'm not willing to talk about that.”

On AllYourTruth.com, a box headed “Jo Benson, LLMSW” bears a badge that says “verified by Psychology Today.” But therapists pay \$29.95 a month to be listed on the publication's website, and its verification appears to be cursory: Scott says they never replied to his emails asking that his name be removed from Clark's listing. Though Benson's website lists eleven “professional contacts,” at press time, none had responded to the Observer's inquiries. (Scott believes she carried them over from her previous profile as Emily Clark.)

On AllYourTruth, Benson until recently listed herself as working with the Ann Arbor DBT Center. But the center will not confirm she's a counselor there. Told her history makes us skeptical, a staffer there said, “I would go with your suspicions.”

White, her former boss, says he sent four emails to the Michigan board this spring raising questions about her practice. She has a “limited license,” which requires her to do clinical work under the supervision of a fully licensed therapist—but Benson's online marketing gives no indication that she's supervised. (Scott's name was eventually removed from her PsychologyToday.com listing.) At press time, members of the state licensing board had not responded to White's emails nor to the Observer's questions about her licensing status and practice.

A runner himself, White says some Oregon marathoners have become aware of her Michigan reincarnation. They fear she might try to cheat in races again. But his concerns run much deeper: he's worried about her clients. In running, all that's at stake is prestige; in therapy, it's people's mental health.

“The changes she's made mean that new clients don't know who they're confiding in,” he says. “She advertises that she works with high-risk clients: trauma survivors. To do that, your ethics need to be spot-on.”

“I worry about anyone who would have her as a therapist,” Marcia says. “How can she keep doing these things?”

White, a behaviorist, thinks he knows: “I'd say that if your behavior doesn't have consequences, you keep doing it.”

On her website, Benson tells prospective clients, “you don't have to care what the people who don't matter think of you.” She also observes: “Some people just can't see you clearly. But others really can.”

Emily Clark was able to shape her own narrative for years after alarms were raised in Oregon. In an email to the social work board there, Marcia worried that even losing her license might not stop her: she could “just become a ‘life coach’ which is what she was going to do here before I reported her.”

As Jo Benson, she is once again licensed—and even if the Michigan board cracks down, she could still rebrand again. There are no regulations at all for life coaches.

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A FORMER CLIENT SAYS THE THERAPIST OFTEN TALKED ABOUT HER SUCCESS RUNNING MARATHONS—BUT LATER ADMITTED TO CHEATING IN RACES SINCE 2013.

CANCELING Summer

by Jan Schlain

For the first time since 1984, there will be no Ann Arbor Summer Festival. No big-name national acts at Power Center, no free concerts by local musicians at the Top of the Park.

No one's more disappointed than executive director Michael Michelon. Right now, he and his staff should be racing toward June's opening night. Instead, he's spent the last two months dismantling what would have been his third festival—taking with it more than 40 percent of his operating budget.

It could have been worse. When they canceled at the end of March, "we were about to outlay significant costs that we would be unable to get back," Michelon says—signing contracts for expensive acts and bringing on contract production staff.

Fortunately, most of the sponsors and underwriters had made their full commitment ahead of time and told Michelon to keep the funds. Others "who are facing their own challenges" are "giving what they could," he says. "The support has been tremendous."

Ann Arbor lost its citywide summer party and more than 100 local performers lost gigs. "We're trying to transition those to other formats," Michelon says. "We're trying to find ways to honor the commitment."

The pandemic "has put everything into perspective," he emails later. "It's important that we ask questions such as what practices have outlived their usefulness? What are new ways of approaching our work and partnering with other organizations?"

They've been consulting peers, including the International Festival of Arts & Ideas in New Haven, Connecticut, "because their profile and types of events are similar ... We were both thinking about how to balance bringing our programs online virtually versus what we can create new that would be viable in a social distancing world."

In May, Michelon and the festival's four full-time employees were exploring concepts like "sidewalk serenades," where people can sponsor a brief concert on their lawn by a solo artist or small ensemble. "We're also thinking of doing pop-up concerts," as well as online streaming.

They'll make the first announcement on May 26. Most will fall within the traditional three-and-a-half-week season, this year from June 12 to July 5, but they're also planning to produce things into the fall.



"People are going to want to get out in some way, and so we're trying to think about things that people can do that don't involve screens," he says.

But they probably will involve masks. "And some of them may be at home, he says, "or may involve pressing 'play' on something, to start an activity, but don't involve having to keep your eyes glued to a screen."

"It's an interesting juxtaposition," he says, waxing philosophical. "The reason I like—the reason I love—live events is the certainty of uncertainty. That does not apply to the pandemic moment. If there's one thing I'm tired of it's the uncertainty as it relates to all these things."

"But I think that we all want the different type of uncertainty back. That might be, 'What do we choose to do today?'"

The Ann Arbor Art Fair was canceled in early May.

"I'm a newsie," says Maggie Ladd, director of the South University Area Association, sponsor of Ann Arbor's South University

There's no way to social distance the Ann Arbor Summer Festival and Art Fair.

Art

Fair. "I've

been watching this since January, and reading Michigan.gov. As Michigan became more dire, I started asking myself, 'What's it like in the rest of the country? How many cases are there in the different states from where the artists come?'

"For me, it ended up being somewhat of a moral issue ... we would be bringing about 1,000 artists, 500 vendors, artists' assistants ... that's 2,000 people. Then the sponsors. ... Could I in all good conscience bring them into my hometown?"

Frances Todor-Hargreaves, executive director of the State Street District, also saw warning signs. A few of her older artists had called to say, "I'm concerned about my health, so I'm canceling my shows."

"We were seeing other events already cancel," says Karen Delhey, executive director of the Guild of Artists and Artisans, which operates the Ann Arbor Sum-

mer Art Fair and others, "so we already kind of knew this was a possibility when our stay-at-home order started."

In mid-April, the directors had a video conference with representatives of the city—community services administrator Derek Delacourt, fire chief Mike Kennedy, and AAPD special services sergeant Bill Clock. "I took that feedback to the executive committee and updated my board," says Todor-Hargreaves. "And that's when we all came to the realization of yeah, this isn't going to happen."

There's no good time to cancel the Ann Arbor Art Fair, but if it had to be done, it "couldn't have happened at a better time," said Mo Riley, director of The Original art fair, formally known as the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. She meant that there was still time to "put the brakes on things." Her 2020 featured artist's poster—the visual identity for the show each year—was "at the designer ... a hair's breadth from being

released ... now we can roll it over to 2021."

The State Street District Art Fair had not yet chosen its featured artist, Todor-Hargreaves says, so it gave everyone two options: "The first was to refund all their fees except for \$100 administrative costs and keep their spot for next year; the second was a full refund but a new jury process for 2021."

The other fairs, too, are offering full refunds or a rollover to next year. While there is some variation from fair to fair, "it's the model that most shows across the country are doing," Riley says.

"The effect the cancellation is having on our bottom line is not pretty," Riley admits. She brings on her usual interns and part-timers for the summer, and furloughed a couple of staff members. She was able to bring them back later "to process the paperwork"—but once that's done, she'll likely have to let them go again.

Delhey says the Guild has five full-

her spare images of nature blend drawing, printmaking, and mixed-media.) He considers art fairs "one of the purest expressions of the American spirit ... of the intersection of art and commerce. It's making something yourself, getting in a van, going out onto the open road, and selling that thing. It's making your own life. That's what this country is about."

Most of the artists in the film—couples Joachim Knill and Janice Ho, and Lynn and John Whipple, mother and son Gillian and Michael Kemper, and others—have shown their work at one or more of the Ann Arbor fairs over the years. "They're all friends of mine," says Riley. "My reaction to the film? I won't see these friends this summer. They won't see each other. The friendships are so deep. It's really a family ... after I watched the film, I wanted to cry."

Despite the rain, the heat, the packing up and tearing down, night after night in hotel rooms or RVs or vans, "what we do,

"It's really hard," says South U's Maggie Ladd. "Art fair isn't just about the art fair organizations. It's about the entire downtown, and the businesses and the hotels, the restaurants and bars. There's a whole community affected by the cancellation."

time and one half-time employee, "then we hire staffing for the summer—interns and staff—that we aren't going to hire this year."

The Guild had planned to hold seven events this year. They canceled the first and did a virtual fair instead. The second, scheduled the weekend of Mother's Day in Birmingham, was postponed until August. She doesn't yet know how that or the four later fairs will play out, so "I haven't made any staffing decisions yet."

"It's really hard," Ladd says. "Art fair isn't just about the art fair organizations. It's about the entire downtown, and the businesses and the hotels, the restaurants and bars. There's a whole community affected by cancellation."

No one is suffering more than the artists themselves.

"It's heartbreaking," says Riley. "As I watched other art fairs cancel across the country and absorb the impacts on the artists financially, it just became heartwrenching. This is their livelihood."

"It's not only losing the Ann Arbor fair," she points out. As fairs around the country cancel, "it's four months of having really little income for those who do this circuit. It's heartbreaking."

The artists' experience is vividly evoked in Dylan Strzynski's forthcoming *The Life You Make*. He debuted it at a private streaming for GoFundMe supporters in May.

Strzynski and his wife, Helen Gotlib, both travel the circuit and show in The Original fair. (He calls his wide-ranging work "expressionistic mixed-media;"

it's fun," painter William Kwamena-Poh says in the film. "At the end of the day, I've paid my bills and settled my debts ... I'm happy." But this year, he won't have the fun—or the income.

The fair organizers, too, are facing holes in their budgets and their schedules.

"Emotionally it's been difficult," says Delhey. "We're all very passionate about this event. It takes up so much of your time and it's so much of what we do on a daily basis." Mournfully she added, "What am I going to do in July now? I'm not used to having a free summer."

She won't be entirely idle. "We do want to stay at the forefront of people's minds, especially that week" of the fairs, she says. "We're going to make [the artists] accessible to the community. We'll do some online things; they'll be on the website."

"We're trying to come up with some kind of plan so that we can continue pushing them out to the community as well as the businesses. The event was started to help the economy in Ann Arbor during the summer, and with everything being shut down, this is even more devastating."

As for next year's fair, Ladd says, it's "too early to speculate. There are too many things out of our control. We don't know what's going to happen with the virus."

Yet, she adds, "artists are artists. They are going to make art. It's a calling. How they sell it may change."

"What else are we going to do?" one artist asks in *The Life You Make*. "Get jobs?

"We could, but that wasn't the dream." ■

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Land of a thousand flavors

EMERGENCY LEADS TO EMERGENCE

Crisis causes community's creativity to come to the fore

While the local community continues to pay the price of the tragic reality of the continuing coronavirus pandemic, positive work does still emerge around the edges, even in the state of emergency. The situation has impacted literally everyone. But as musician Jim White writes, "Sometimes tribulation forces buried treasure to the surface." Times feature writers took a look behind the scenes at some of those new creative emergences around the Zingerman's Community.

health care heroes Program at the deli

Times reporters have taken great interest in the program at **Zingerman's Delicatessen**, which brings the Deli's nationally recognized sandwiches to health care workers at local hospitals working on the front line of the pandemic. The program is funded by caring customers in the greater community. "We wanted a way to both help one of our favorite local food establishments AND to assist the staff at the hospitals who working such long and difficult hours to deal with the pandemic," one Zingerman's regular reported. [Learn more at zcob.me/hero.](http://zcob.me/hero)

Zingerman's Roadhouse has a comparable program—called **Meals for Medicine**—that also makes it easy for supporters of the community's health care workers to channel funds in positive, food-focused directions. [More info at zingermansroadhouse.com/meals-for-medicine.](http://zingermansroadhouse.com/meals-for-medicine)

roadhouse fried chicken Sandwiches "flying out the door"

Fried chicken has long been the biggest selling item at Zingerman's Roadhouse. As Times food writers have said, "It's the perfect food for the stressful state of existence that persists in the pandemic period." One outgrowth of that fried chicken boom has been the new Fried Chicken Sandwich. The same signature fried chicken—buttermilk batter, Tellicherry pepper, and cayenne spiced, crunchy crust, but this time set in boneless form—on a Bakehouse bun, topped with a New Mexico Green Chile-Ranch dressing and a generous stack of Topor's pickle slices, Nueske's applewood-smoked bacon, and Vermont cheddar cheese. A Roadhouse spokesperson told reporters: "They're flying out the door!" [Order yours online at zingermansroadhouse.com.](http://zingermansroadhouse.com)



food tours launches a new instagram star!

Sometimes media personalities pop up in unexpected places. Zingerman's Food Tours managing partner Kristie Brablec's fledgling business was literally grounded by the pandemic. Times Travel Section reports that "Brablec turned to one tool that was still open and completely safe—virtual travel, with a series of now nationally recognized Instagram Live chats." Brablec, it seems, is a media star in the making! Tune in for tales of travel with artisan producers from all over the world. [See the schedule for the Virtual Travel Series at zingermansfoodtours.com.](http://zingermansfoodtours.com)

bake!® classes open online

When the pandemic hit, one immediate casualty was the super popular classes at **BAKE!** Zingerman's nationally-renowned school for home bakers. Within a few weeks though, the crew at the Bakehouse had turned forced closure into connection—classes that have been lovingly held at the **BAKE!** classrooms on Plaza Drive went up online. How's it working? Robin Kline from Des Moines reports, "The class was fabulous! Almost as good as being in Ann Arbor!" Classes include pizza making, bread baking, pastry work, and more. Book soon—with the national boom in home baking over the last few months, **BAKE!** class sales are on the rise! [Register at bakewithzing.com.](http://bakewithzing.com)

attention food lovers!



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For short reads, follow us on Twitter @zingermans and Instagram @zingermanscommunity

cornman farms stock the freezer menu

Over in Dexter, Southeast Michigan's premier farm wedding venue was essentially rendered event-less by the pandemic. But the folks at the farm quickly found a way to continue to offer full-flavored, home-cooked food and warm welcomes to its community of customers. Features from the Farm include Chef and Co-Managing Partner Kierion's Mom's cheese roulade, Cottage Pie, and a host of the traditional English treats Hales had as a child in the West Country—Eton Mess, crumpets, and steamed lemon sponge cakes. [Place your order at cornmanfarms.com.](http://cornmanfarms.com)

zingShare takes the town by storm

In crises, things that would often take longer can move surprisingly quickly. Ari Weinzeig shares, "We gather up offerings every week from all the Zingerman's businesses and pack them into one handy box. Times taste testers report that the items come packed nicely in a Zingerman's box—the list of items is posted in advance. ZingShare now has a regular loyal following and sales have grown steadily. At the Creamery, Arend Elston explains: "Order by Wednesday each week, to pick up at the Creamery (next to Zingerman's Bakehouse) on Friday between 1 and 6pm. You can also order the box for delivery!" [Order at zcob.me/zingshare.](http://zcob.me/zingshare)

zingtrain unveils virtual training

When its nationally-recognized training seminars were shut down, ZingTrain pivoted to produce a series of virtual live training sessions for business and not-for-profit leaders across the country. Early indicators have been positive and the rapid registrations have thrilled industry experts. Topics include visioning, energy management, and more. Katie Frank, co-managing partner says, "The virtual trainings make it easier for business owners to 'send' more staff—they save on the cost of travel so they're eager to invest smaller sums in the effective training and education for their teams." [View the schedule at zingtrain.com.](http://zingtrain.com)

Restaurant Reviews

Ice Cream, No Cream

Nondairy frozen treats are having a moment.

For some of us, it might have been much harder to get through Michigan's stay-at-home order if it were not for ice cream. Luckily, people who can't tolerate dairy or are vegan were also able to partake.

Even though it hasn't been possible to linger inside over a cup or a cone, nondairy ice creams abound across town.

Their arrival mirrors what's happening in grocery stores like Whole Foods, Plum Market, and Trader Joe's, where nondairy ice cream choices have multiplied in the freezer aisle.

And, they're a hit with customers. "Because it's Ann Arbor, we get a lot of demand," says Nate Nuttle, operations manager at Blank Slate Creamery.

"I have a lot of friends who are vegan," says Rob Hess, owner of Go! Ice Cream in Ypsilanti. "I tried all the vegan ice creams, and I didn't find any that were great and flavorful"—so he developed his own versions.

Just before the pandemic struck, local attorney Margaret Petersen and I did a tour of eight area ice cream shops, finding out where we could get something nondairy by the scoop or in a cone.

We agreed on two clear winners and discovered a few similarities among all of them. Nondairy ice creams tend to be quite sweet, in part because they're covering up the base flavor, which is often derived from coconut milk or cashews. Variations on chocolate seem to be the most popular.

For vegans who miss the taste of ice cream, the current faux versions are a huge leap forward. But ice cream purists may think they aren't close enough yet to eat a whole dish.

Here's a guide to what we found. It's advisable to call first to make sure they are open, check the flavor lineup and sizes available, and learn their ordering and pickup systems.

Blank Slate Creamery, 300 W. Liberty. (734) 922-5383.

Choices: Blank Slate has made a big commitment to nondairy ice cream. It has a separate case with seven flavors of nondairy ice creams and sorbets. In March, it introduced "Sunbutter Chip," made from oat milk, sunflower seed butter, and chocolate shavings.

Verdict: Sunbutter Chip is the best of the area's non-dairy ice creams. The oat milk gives it a mouth feel very close to ice cream. Blank Slate's chocolate sorbet is creamy and rich.

Would we eat an entire dish? Definitely.

Price: One scoop, \$4.25; two scoops, \$5.25. Pints, \$8.25, with two cones.



KATHERINE DOWDIE

Go! Ice Cream, 10 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. (734) 219-7484.

Choices: Chocolate sorbet, with plans to rotate fruit sorbets through its lineup this summer.

Verdict: The chocolate sorbet ranks with Blank Slate's Sunbutter Chip as the best we tried on our tour. It has a deep flavor that comes from cocoa, chocolate, and espresso powder. It has the mouthfeel of ice cream, rather than the iciness of most sorbets. It's so good that I have eaten two pints during stay-at-home time (not all in one sitting, of course).

Would we eat a whole dish? Yes. It's worth the trip.

Price: \$3.97 for one scoop, \$5.97 for two. Pints are \$9.97.

Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. (734) 929-0500.

Choices: Lemon sorbet by the scoop; other sorbet flavors available in prepacked pints.

Verdict: We were surprised Zingerman's didn't have a plant-based ice cream, given that its gelato has a standout reputation. "People do ask" for non-dairy options, said Tara, the counter clerk. The lemon sorbet tasted like an ordinary lemon sorbet. It was icy rather than smooth.

Would we eat a whole dish? Probably not.

Price: One scoop, \$3; two scoops, \$4. Pint prices vary by variety.

Washtenaw Dairy, 602 S. Ashley. (734) 662-3244.

Choices: Chocolate dairy-free ice cream and lemon sorbet. The ice cream is made by Hudsonville Ice Cream in Holland, MI, and the sorbet comes from Sayino's Italian Ices, based in Florida. It sometimes offers mango and raspberry sorbet.

Verdict: We discovered that Washtenaw Dairy had a dairy-free choice by looking at its Instagram account. Manager Tyler Hendrickson said he waited to roll it out until Blank Slate opened for the season.

Choices: Coconut almond fudge and chocolate chip cookie dough dairy-free ice creams; Berry Berry and lemonade sorbets.

Verdict: It's no surprise that Ben & Jerry's gives over half a case to its dairy-free flavors and offers tastes via environmentally friendly wooden sticks instead of plastic spoons. The dairy-free ice creams are sweet, but are close to Ben & Jerry's traditional ice creams in mouthfeel and flavor. The sorbets taste smooth and fruity.

Would we eat a whole dish? Yes, of the lemonade sorbet.

Price: \$4.99 for a small cup, \$5.99 for a large. The dairy-free flavors are \$6.89 in prepackaged pints.

—Micheline Maynard

table talk

in March, since the two places are within blocks of each other downtown.

The ice cream has a strong overtone of coconut. The sorbet tastes like a traditional lemon sorbet but creamier than the Zingerman's version.

Would we eat a whole dish? No, but the mango is excellent when they have it.

Price: Single scoop \$3.50, double scoop \$4.50. Pint price \$5.25.

Baskin Robbins, 1952 W. Stadium. (734) 332-3493.

Choices: We figured the ice cream giant would be on the dairy-free bandwagon, and we were right. At the time, it had two dairy-free ice creams—coffee caramel crunch and chocolate chip cookie dough—plus daiquiri ice.

Verdict: Both dairy-free flavors were sweet, but if you like ice cream with add-in ingredients, you'll enjoy the texture. The daiquiri ice is sweet and tangy, with a smooth texture.

Would we eat a whole dish? Yes, of the daiquiri ice.

Price: Single \$2.79; double \$4.59. Pint prices vary.

Dairy Queen, 1805 Packard (734-665-5588) and 2430 W. Stadium (734-663-7361).

Choices: We wanted to see if DQ had joined the dairy-free ice cream craze. Not yet. But it offers the Misty slush, made from flavoring and water.

Verdict: It's icy and sweet.

Would we drink a whole one? If it's hot outside.

Price: Small \$1.70; medium \$1.99.

Michigan Creamery, 302 S. State. (734) 662-1700. We sampled a couple of Hudsonville non-dairy offerings and a sorbet here, but at press time, the Creamery was closed and calls were not returned. Its website invites customers to support it by purchasing gift cards.

Ben & Jerry's, 304 S. State. (734) 665-4440.

Late last year, before the pandemic rearranged our lives—and many of our eating habits—Zingerman's Bakehouse introduced a new bread, one with a mission. Called **State St. Wheat**, the Bakehouse developed it as part of the Bread Lab Collective, "a group of artisan bakers working in collaboration with the Bread Lab of Washington State University." The Bread Lab's Plant Breeding Program has been researching grains to single out those that perform successfully for farmers and are also well suited to baking, brewing, and distilling, among other culinary possibilities. The Collective, meanwhile, has challenged its members to use those grains "to create nourishing sandwich loaves, crafted with artisan techniques, made of seven or fewer ingredients, and at least fifty-percent whole grain flour." The goal is to be healthier than typical grocery store options while still offering real flavor and texture—a "bridge" bread, so to speak, between mass production and artisan.

Shaped like a grocery store loaf, precut, and plastic-bagged, State St. Wheat's slices offer greater real estate than an oblong bread for making sandwiches, and its soft, dense quality is attractive for those less inclined towards crusty, chewy, or airy loaves. It's denser and less sweet than its older cousin, Margaret's Sweet Wheat—and cheaper, \$5.99 versus \$8.99 a loaf, though certainly not as inexpensive as Wonder Bread or Pepperidge Farm. But then, real flavor and texture have a price.

I found State St. Wheat to be delicious as a soft bread for my egg, avocado, and cucumber sandwich, grilled for a cheddar-pickle combo, and as morning toast with rhubarb jam. And ten cents of every loaf will benefit the Bread Lab's ongoing efforts to bring us better nutrition through better food—righteous indeed.

—Lee Lawrence

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Original wide-plank pine flooring throughout with one operable sash window in each room for fresh air. Wet-plaster walls, original Greek Revival trim and bright exterior lighting.

While Landlord is responsible for all taxes, gas/water utilities, and maintenance, Tenant will be billed directly for separately-metered electrical service. Landlord provides snow removal, garden maintenance and handyman services.

As this Apartment is available for immediate occupancy, prospective Tenants should telephone Heydon Washington Street Properties leaving their message at (734) 747-7070 to arrange for an appointment to view this distinctive residence. The Landlord will return their phone call to establish a mutually convenient time to visit and learn Tenants' bona fides and rental history. Twenty-seven hundred fifty dollars monthly with C.P.I. annual adjustments. Lease Term negotiable, but two-year initial Lease is preferred.

Marketplace Changes

WSG Bows Out

Covid-19 was the coup de grâce.

"It's heartbreaking that we have to close our physical space right now, but it's the right thing to do," says Valerie Mann, president of **WSG Gallery**, one of the crown jewels of Main St. Until March 23, dinner in a Main Street restaurant and a stroll through the WSG, maybe followed by a little music somewhere, was the definition of a night on the town, not just for locals but for people all over southeastern Michigan, fans in football season, and visiting U-M parents.

Originally the Washington Street Gallery, WSG has graced downtown storefronts for twenty years. "During the last recession, our sales never dropped. We're the only gallery that lasted," says painter Elizabeth Schwartz, one of its fifteen artist owners. But WSG's five-year lease in the historic Pratt Block was up in February, and the group and landlord Ed Shaffran couldn't agree on new terms.

It was a long-term relationship—Shaffran also owns their previous location on Liberty—and both parties agree on the basic facts of the breakup.

At the end of its lease, WSG was paying about \$5,000 a month. It never missed a payment, but it was a struggle. Shaffran was looking to increase that by several thousand over the next five years.

Schwartz, who's also an attorney, handled negotiations for the gallery. She asked for a rent freeze the first year and much softer price hikes over the rest of the term.

The parties were still at loggerheads when Covid-19 hit. When Governor Whitmer issued her first stay-at-home order, WSG closed its doors. When it missed its April and May rent payments, Shaffran asked the members to vacate by May 26.

Shaffran manages more than 200,000 square feet of rental space and says about twenty tenants have asked for some type of rent concession. "Right from the get-go we've said we'll try to help as much



Francesc Burgos, Takeshi Takahara, Valerie Mann (in foreground), and Karin Wagner Coron prepare to vacate their Main St. space.

as we can," he says. "But I'm not the lender of last resort. I'm not the federal government."

Shaffran says he's offered to let all his tenants defer rent for two or three months and amortize the missed payments over the rest of the year, essentially giving them an interest-free loan. But he says he can't make additional concessions to WSG without offering concessions to all his other tenants.

"Nobody created this; nobody wanted this," he says. But "when taxes come due, I have to pay"—and when the rent is due, he expects his tenants to pay, too.



Two of Nizar El Awar's South U businesses are gone, but he's reopened the Oasis Grill at the corner of Church.

Mann emphasizes that the WSG will continue, just not on Main St. All members are still producing art, which they will continue to exhibit online.

That's not ideal, acknowledges the group's newest member, fiber artist Cathryn Amidei: "Art is one of those things you want to keep 'warm,' and online can be 'cool.'" But with no immediate alternatives, they're overhauling the website, adding, among other features, "studio visits"—two-minute videos of artists talking about their work. Soon there may be pop-up events, and they hope to eventually find a less expensive space somewhere else.

WSG Gallery, wsg-art.com.

Oasis is Back

For now, takeout only

The **Oasis Grill** had been a fixture on the student lunch and dinner route at 1104 South University since 1986. Owner Nizar El Awar, who emigrated from Lebanon in the early 1980s, eventually opened two adjacent businesses, South U Pizza and Rendezvous Hookah Lounge.

Then developer Ron Hughes started clearing out businesses on both sides of the block to make way for student high-rises. The Vic Village North opened last fall; El Awar's were among the businesses on the south side of the street that Hughes bought to clear the site of the planned Vic Village South. South U Pizza and Rendezvous Hookah are closed permanently, and Oasis Grill has relocated: in May, it opened for takeout and delivery at 1201 South University, the former site of China Gate.

"My clients followed me, and I have new customers now," El Awar says, "although business is down 70 percent because of the coronavirus. Our falafel is the best in town," he adds, but the chicken

shawarma remains Oasis's most popular sandwich.

This will be the first time in twenty-five years that El Awar won't be a vendor at the art fair, which is skipping this pandemic year (see feature, p. 28). But while he misses the old Ann Arbor, he acknowledges that the new housing brings more business and doesn't regret the loss of his pizza and hookah places—it's "one stop towards retirement," he says. He has two sons, both of whom have worked with him on and off, but neither aspires to a career in the restaurant business: one is a U-M grad and the other is currently a student.

Oasis Grill, 1201 South University. (734) 665-2244. Daily 11 a.m.–9 p.m. theoasisgrill.com

Briefly Noted

The **Ann Arbor Art Van** closed in March after the Warren-based company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Just three years earlier, Art Van Elslander had sold the 190-store chain to Boston-based private equity firm Thomas H. Lee Partners LP (THL). Van Elslander died in 2018. THL announced plans to add 200 stores by 2020, but with \$400 million in debt, the company was in trouble even before the pandemic. According to a March article in *Crain's Detroit Business*, THL sold assets and cut staff and salaries. "They took a successful brand with a successful executive team and destroyed a great company in three years," former senior VP of marketing Diana Sikes told *Crain's*.

Now, some of the old team may be getting back together: in May, Jeff Love's Texas-based U.S. Assets announced it was buying the leases and assets of twenty-seven former Art Van stores, including Ann Arbor's. It's already brought aboard a half dozen former Art Van executives and plans to reopen the stores under a new, Michigan-based brand, **Love's Furniture**. ■

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June Events

GALLERIES

37 Exhibits this month

Maggie McMillin

FILMS

37 Film Screenings

John Hinckley

TIPS FOR READING

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers have area code (734).

Online event listings include a URL. This link either directs you to (1) a preregistration page or (2) the online location itself. For security reasons, preregistration may be required in order to limit the number of persons in attendance.

* Denotes a free event

Note: This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**, all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's opening up. Published events reflect plans as of press day (20 May). The most up-to-date calendar of events is available at [AnnArborObserver.com](#)

Whether these venues are open or not, we strongly recommend that you **stay home** until the public health crisis has abated.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month**.

- Email: events@aaobserver.com
- Phone: 769-3175
- Mail: Calendar Editors, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- Fax: 769-3375
- After-hours drop box: left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activi-

ties elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers. Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at [AnnArborObserver.com](#).

Due to space limitations, **many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar**. This is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

1 MONDAY

"Oh MI Goddess Virtual Half Marathon & 5k": Epic Races. June 1–July 12. All invited to run or walk a half marathon or 5k and post updates to [Facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents](#). Race can be completed at any time and in any location. Price includes a T-shirt, medal, and other swag TBA. All day. [Facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents](#). \$40 in advance at [epicraces.com/events/oh-mi-goddess](#) (price increase TBA after May 31). info@epicraces.com, 585-7101.

***Gemini Livestream Concert.** Every weekday. Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits of the nationally renowned local acoustic duo Gemini, along with San's folk musician daughter Emily, present short livestream concerts on their Facebook page. The schedule (subject to change): children's shows by San & Emily (Mon.) and Laz (Thurs.) and adult shows by Laz (Tues.), Emily (Wed.), and San & Emily (Fri.). 5 p.m., [Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic](#). Free, but donations for Food Gatherers or a charity of your choice accepted during each performance.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

35 Local web pages and outdoor sanctuaries

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

EVENT REVIEWS

38 Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam

A creative community goes online.
Patrick Dunn

KIDS CALENDAR

39 Events for kids 12 and under

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

2 TUESDAY

***"Pub Trivia over Zoom."** Every Tues. Pub-style team-based trivia, hosted over video chat. Teams congregate in video breakout rooms to discuss their answers. Ten questions per trivia night. Individuals and teams welcome; individuals will be assigned to a team. Beginners welcome. 7 p.m., email Tom.Gottzman@thomasjg46@hotmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

3 WEDNESDAY

***"Virtual Lunchtime Lessons about Korean Food": Miss Kim.** Every Wed. Miss Kim chef Ji Hye Kim demonstrates how to make various Korean dishes TBA. 12:30 p.m., [Facebook.com/MissKimAnnArbor](#). Free.

***"Read Aloud Together Virtually": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.** Every Wed. All invited to join a reading of Mark Twain's classic 1883 memoir *Life on the Mississippi*. Led by local writer Sharon Quiroz. 1 p.m., bit.ly/readtwinaloud. Free. 998-9351.

***"House Calls: Virtual Studio Visits with Michigan Artists in the Pandemic": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Every Wed., Apr. 15–June 17. U-M Institute for the Humanities representatives lead a weekly discussion with various Michigan artists about how the pandemic is shaping the way artists are making and thinking. June 3: Ypsilanti-based multimedia artist **Ricky Weaver**. June 10: Detroit-based portraitist **Ijania Cortez**. June 17: Detroit-based textile artist **Levon Kafafian**. 4 p.m., bit.ly/michiganhumanities. Free. humin@umich.edu

***"Kerrytown Crafters": Every Wed.** All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work

on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join [Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters](#) for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926-8863.

***Willy Porter Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter from Milwaukee whose music blends roots-pop with elements of funk and country, and whose songs span a wide range of moods, from the trucker-inspired "Jesus on the Grille" and the girl-in-the-diner ode "Glow" to the erotic mysticism of "Watercolor," all accompanied by his intricately virtuosic acoustic guitar playing. Porter was the MC of the 2020 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. 8 p.m., see [TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar](#) for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

5 FRIDAY

***"Clements Bookworm Online Event": U-M Clements Library.** Every Friday. Various authors, Clements staff, and panelists TBA discuss books in a webinar format. Upcoming topics TBA at [clements.umich.edu/bookworm](#). 10 a.m., preregistration required at [myumi.ch/gjgzR](#) for meeting URL. Free, donations accepted. 649-3370.

***"Fustini Fridays": Fustini's Oils & Vinegars.** Every Fri. Fustini staff members lead livestream cooking demonstrations. Each week features a different recipe TBA and a different oil and vinegar combination. Q&A. 3 p.m., [Facebook.com/FustinisOilAndVinegar](#). Free.

***Natalia Zukerman Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** The daughter of classical musicians Eugenia and Pinchas Zukerman, Natalia Zukerman found her own style when she took up slide guitar. Her music combines folk, jazz, and blues, and she's a fine original songwriter and also quite a painter—perhaps the online format will

STORYTIMES

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alternative activities

Please reference our daily calendar for scheduled livestream events.

Music

- Free and paid **livestream performances** from many local musicians, including favorites such as **Mark Braun** (aka Mr. B), **Chris Buhalis**, and **Peter Madcat Ruth**. Consult your favorite musician's **social media pages** for more information.
- Upcoming **livestreams** are listed on the public Facebook groups **Ann Arbor Loves Live Music!** (bit.ly/aalivemusic) and **SE Michigan Live Music** (bit.ly/semilivemusic).
- UMMA's "Sight and Sound" series features music composed by U-M music students, inspired by works of art in the museum. umma.umich.edu/MusicLabels

Theater, Opera, and Dance

The University Musical Society is shut down, but some of the organizations whose live broadcasts it has been bringing to town are rebroadcasting their shows for free online.

- The **Metropolitan Opera** offers nightly full-length productions TBA. 7:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. every day or so (each production is available for 23 hrs). MetOpera.org/User-Information/Nightly-Met-Opera-Streams
- The **National Theatre (London)** offers weekly full-length plays TBA. 2 p.m., every Thur. (each production is available for 1 week). bit.ly/yttheatre

Watching & Listening Material

- U-M Art School's popular **Penny Stamps Speaker Series** offers pre-recorded lectures by artists from around the world. Stamps.umich.edu/Stamps
- **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** has free prerecorded and livestream lectures. Olli.umich.org
- **AADL eBooks & audiobooks**. AADL.org/Catalog/eBooks
- **Literati Bookstore's** digital events series features live interviews with authors & poets and a book club. LiteratiBookstore.com
- The **U-M Clements Library** lecture series offers recorded lectures with closed captioning. Clements.MiVideo.it.umich.edu
- The **Ann Arbor Art Center's** "Studio Stories" video series showcases the studios

of Michigan artists. AnnArborArtCenter.org/Studio-Stories

- The **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** offers "Musical Minutes," short educational videos about famous composers. a2so.com

Interactive Web Pages

- Quizzes, museum-themed coloring pages, digitized galleries, and more from **UMMA**. umma.umich.edu
- Social media-based activities from the **Ann Arbor Summer Festival**, including their "Quarantine Confessions" challenge in which participants submit anonymous stories of their quarantine shenanigans. a2sf.org

Family & Kids Stuff

- **U-M Museum of Natural History** adds new science-related programs to their web page **Museum@Home** every Wednesday. bit.ly/michmuseumathome
- **UMMA** offers narrated "virtual field trip" videos, lesson plans, printable coloring pages, and more. umma.umich.edu
- **University Musical Society Performance Playground** offers online learning resources in the arts for grades K-8. UMS.org/Education/Performance-Playground/
- **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science & Nature Center's STEM at Home** web page includes activities, crafts, videos, and more. AAHOM.org/Experience/Programs/Type/STEM-At-Home
- The **Humane Society of Huron Valley** offers animal-themed crafts and picture book readings. bit.ly/hshvonline
- **826michigan's virtual writing challenge** includes quirky weekly topics, as well as the opportunity to get feedback on your stories and have your final version read to a virtual audience. 826michigan.org/Dr-Blotchs-Writing-Challenge.
- **AADL's DIY crafting** videos. AADL.org/CreativeBug
- **AADL's regularly updated puzzle-based online kids game** Bummer Game. Play.AADL.org
- **AADL's** livestream library **storytimes**. AADL.tv
- The **Ann Arbor Art Center** offers craft ideas, printable art games, prerecorded drawing lessons, and more. New mate-

rial every Tuesday. AnnArborArtCenter.org/Art-Resources

- Interactive virtual art projects from the **Ann Arbor Summer Festival**, including their "Kooky Kreatures" drawing activity. a2sf.org

- Virtual **art classes** for kids age 5-11. doodles-academy.org/doodles-at-home

Nature

Select city, U-M, county, and state parks and trails are open from dawn to dusk. Usage is limited to activities that do not involve direct contact with others. Visitors must practice social distancing. Note: Park facilities are closed.

- City of Ann Arbor parks, trails, & nature areas include **Bird Hills** and **Kuebler Langford** nature area (650 Beechwood Dr.), **Barton** nature area (W. Huron River Dr.), **Cedar Bend** nature area (1495 Cedar Bend Dr.), **Fuller** park (1519 Fuller Rd.), **Furstenberg** nature area, **Parker Mill** county park (4650 Geddes Rd.), **Cobblestone Farm** (2781 Packard St.), and others. Full list of locations available at a2gov.org
- U-M nature areas include **Matthaei Botanical Gardens** (1800 N. Dixboro Rd.), **Nichols Arboretum** (1610 Washington Hts.), **Saginaw Forest** (3900 W. Liberty), and **Stinchfield Woods** (9401 Stinchfield Woods Rd., Pinckney).
- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy's properties include the **Pittsfield Stream Corridor** (1130 W. Textile Rd.), **Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve** (3040 N. Prospect Rd.), **LeForge Woods Nature Preserve** (2384 N. Prospect Rd.), and **Springhill Nature Preserve** (3260 Berry Rd.).
- Legacy Land Conservancy's properties include the **Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Preserve** (Platt Rd. south of Lillie Park), **Sharon Hills Preserve** (Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester), and **Woodland Preserve** (3777 W. Joy Rd.).
- **Pittsfield Preserve** (south side of Textile Rd., west of Platt Rd.)
- Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation nature preserves include **Baker Woods Preserve** (11914 Trinkle Rd., Dexter), **County Farm Park** (2230 Platt Rd.), **Fox Science Preserve** (2228 Peters Rd.), and **Scio Woods Preserve** (4000 Scio Church Rd.). Full list of open locations available at Washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation.

let her display this. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

6 SATURDAY

★"How the Effects of Covid-19 on the African American Community Strengthen the Case for Reparations": Washtenaw County Democratic Party Online Edition. Panel discussion with Detroit-based National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America national board member JoAnn Watson, EMU Africology & African American studies professor emeritus Ronald Woods, Washtenaw County community health promotion supervisor Charles Wilson, Georgia NAACP state president James Woodall, and Ann Arbor NAACP branch president William Hampton. 9:30 a.m., zoom.us/j/685692609, webinar ID 685-692-609. Free. 883-8250.

7 SUNDAY

- ★Livestream Introductory Dharma Talk: **Jewel Heart Buddhist Center**. Every Sun. Resident Jewel Heart spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche discusses various aspects of Tibetan Buddhism. Followed by discussion. 11 a.m.-noon, see JewelHeart.org for meeting URL. Free. 994-3387.
- ★H.A.C. Ultimate. Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., **Fuller Park**, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846-9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com
- ★"Live @ The 415!": **Kerrytown Concert House**. Every Sun. Livestream performances of jazz, cabaret, classical music,

and more by various KCH favorites TBA. May performers included NYC-based jazz pianist Emmet Cohen, U-M music professor and jazz composer-pianist Ellen Rowe, and local boogie-woogie & blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun. 4:15 p.m., KerrytownConcertHouse.com/live-at-the-415. Free, donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

★"Codenames over Zoom." All invited to play this popular, easy-to-learn guessing board game over video chat. Participants do not need to own the game. 6 p.m., email Tom Gottsman at thomasjg46@hotmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★"Virtual Jams": Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam. Every Sun. See review p. 38. Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass,

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folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. 7–9 p.m., *preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam* for meeting URL. 973–7791.

★“**Online Storytelling Concert: Living Room Live 2?**”: Ann Arbor Storytellers’ Guild. Guild members Janice Burnette, Jane Fink, David Keren, Laura Lee Hayes, and Rich Swanson tell stories that include folk tales, personal stories, tall tales, and more. Emcee is Chelsea fiction writer & playwright **Steve Daut**. 7 p.m., *see Facebook.com/Steve.Daut* for livestream. Free, donations accepted. *Mail@SteveDaut.com*

★**Peter Mulvey: The Ark Family Room Series.** Highly regarded folkie singer-songwriter from Milwaukee known for his complex guitar work, expressively playful vocals, and dark, vividly rendered lyrics. He has released 18 albums and an illustrated book, and he’s been associated with the National Youth Science Camp for decades. 7:30 p.m., *see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar*. Free, donations accepted. 761–1451.

8 MONDAY

★**Virtual Scandinavian Music Jam.** June 8 & 22. Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. 7:30–9:30 p.m., *email bsagan@msu.edu* for meeting URL. Free. (908) 721–2599.

9 TUESDAY

★“**Mentorship Today Impacts the Future**”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series Online Edition. Talk by Concordia University athletic training program director Timothy Neal. 10–11:30 a.m., *meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org* the day before the event. Free. 998–9351.

★**Virtual Playwriting Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble.** This local troupe leads writing exercises focused on one-act & full-length plays. 6:30 p.m., *see Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble* for meeting URL. Free. *BTEpublicity.com*

★“**Virtual Pub Sing**”: Ann Arbor Morris. Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. No set program; all participants are welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. This is a participatory event. 7–10 p.m., *email bsagan@msu.edu* for meeting URL. Free.

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. June 9 & 23. Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit that also produces a weekly public radio show. Ten storytellers are selected at random to tell a 3–5 minute story—this month’s themes are “**Deadlines**” (June 9) & “**Enthusiasm**” (June 23)—judged by a 3-person team recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. 7:30–9 p.m. (*doors open and sign up begins at 6:30 p.m.*), seating limited so arrive early; *The Blind Pig*, 208 S. First. Tickets \$15 general admission in advance only, beginning a week before each event at *TheMoth.org*. 764–5118.

★**Misty Lyn Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Local country-inflected folk-rock singer-songwriter who tended toward gothic imagery but has shifted toward moods of “love, light, and hope” in her music since a serious auto accident in 2015. 8 p.m., *see*

films

Ann Arbor Film Festival. Home-viewing rentals of select films from this year's festival. aaFilmFest.org

Burnout Society Film Club. Home-viewing livestreams and movie suggestions, including schlock classics & forgotten gems. Facebook.com/8ballMovieNight.

TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar/2020-06 for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

10 WEDNESDAY

★“An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. 7 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★“Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan”: History Readers Book Club. All invited to join a discussion, led by local historian Steve Thorp, of Barbara Barton's 2018 book which examines how clashes between the capitalist culture of early European settlers and the spiritual culture of the Anishinaabe people affected wild rice production. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey Booksellers, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 484-3613.

11 THURSDAY

★“Not a Drop to Drink? Water Quality in Michigan”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Summer Lecture Series Online Edition. June 11, 18, & 25. Talk by speakers TBA. 10-11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI.umich.org the day before the event. Free. 998-9351.

★John McCutcheon Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series. A longtime favorite with local audiences, McCutcheon is a hammered dulcimer virtuoso whose repertoire features all forms of Appalachian music, from Sacred Harp songs and traditional ballads to buoyant hoedowns, contemporary songs, and originals, including a series of labor union songs for kids. Called by *Frets* magazine “the most versatile and energetic figure in the American traditional revival,” he also plays guitar, banjo, fiddle, and Autoharp, and he’s a witty, charming performer and a prolific songwriter who brings new music to every show. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

13 SATURDAY

★“Recycling Chat and Craft Online”: Ecology Center of Ann Arbor. Ecology Center education director Katy Adams and education program coordinator Mackenzie Munro discuss how to achieve a zero-waste lifestyle by using reusable, recyclable, or compostable materials. Followed by a demo on how to make simple pom-pom flowers using compostable tissue paper. Afterward, participants are encouraged to pick up neighborhood litter. 10 a.m., bit.ly/aacraftandchat. Free. 369-9277, mmunro@EcoCenter.org

14 SUNDAY

★Virtual Book Discussion: First Presbyterian Church. St. Paul-based mystery writer William Kent Krueger and Aunt Agatha's online mystery book store co-owner Robin Agnew discuss Krueger's most recent novel, *This Tender Land*, the story of 4 orphans' Depression-blighted summer of 1932. “Part *Grapes of Wrath*, part *Huckleberry Finn*, Krueger's novel is a journey over inner and outer terrain toward wisdom and freedom,” says the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. 2 p.m., email GoodReads@FirstPresbyterian.org or call for meeting URL. Free. 369-4345.

★Drew Nelson Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series. This Grand Rapids-based Americana roots-rock singer-songwriter, Navy veteran, fly fisherman, and world traveler has an album, *Tilt-A-Whirl*, on the durable folk label Red House. The album drew praise from AllMusic.com reviewer James Allen for its thoughtful lyrics. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

15 MONDAY

★Monthly Meeting Online Edition: Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about opportunities to be involved in a summer project. 7 p.m., call 330-5724

galleries

Online exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Women Artists, bit.ly/aawartists. Juried exhibit of work in various media by members of this local group.

U-M Clements Library, bit.ly/clements-lib. Multiple online exhibits about early American history, featuring digitized documents from the Clements collection.

U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, bit.ly/kelsey-library. Digitized versions of past exhibits, plus the current exhibit *Randal Stegmeyer: Exposing the Past*, a collection of Stegmeyer's photos of Kelsey Museum artifacts.

U-M Libraries, lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits. Digitized materials from library collections, featuring everything from children's books to 19th-century fashion illustration.

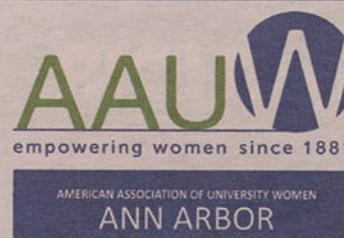
U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), umma.umich.edu. Digitized materials from UMMA's collection. Also, *Medicine @ The Museum*, an online exhibit of artwork from UMMA's collection that speaks to Covid-19 or the history of medicine.

West Side Art Hop Showcase, bit.ly/wsarthop. Work in various media by artists who have been featured in this local art fair.



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The 68th Annual AAUW Book Collection and Book Sale fundraising project for scholarships is postponed until 2021.

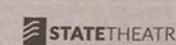
For information about the AAUW-Ann Arbor Branch and its goals, go to ANNARBOR-MI.AAUW.NET



The Michigan and State theaters are committed to being here for our community. Thanks to your support and generosity, along with the hard work from our dedicated staff, we are offering weekly content, new films and parties in our virtual movie palace.

One day, we will open, and as we make preparations, our number one goal will be to make sure you are safe and comfortable in our venues. We look forward to the day we can share space together, again.

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Event
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jams

Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam

*A creative
community goes
online.*

At the end of each song in the weekly Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam, there's a slightly surreal moment in which audience members smile and hold their hands up to visibly—but silently—applaud the performer.

The free public jam has temporarily taken to Zoom during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the audience audio feeds are muted. But the warm, supportive nature that's defined the group since it started in 2010 in Michael Niemi's Ann Arbor Township basement still comes through loud and clear.

The jam has changed leadership and venues since then, but it's become a beloved institution. Regular Rod Johnson says the Zoom jams are especially welcome for fans like him who miss listening to live music. "That's just completely stopped, and I think it's been really hard on a lot of us," Johnson says. "This is as close as we can get to that experience right now."

The musicians can't join in on one another's songs, as they used to do in person, because it's nearly impossible to synchronize video feeds on Zoom. But at a Mother's Day session, performers seemed to be drawing on a set of shared lyrical themes as organizer Bill Connors called on them one by one.

Songs about mothers abounded, ranging from Jim Novak's original "Blue Star in the Window," a tribute to his mother's service in the Women's Army Corps, to Stacy Mates's sly cover of Fountains of Wayne's "Stacy's Mom." (Mates regretted that her mother couldn't be present for the performance.) Other performances tapped into



TABI THA WALTERS

current events, like Milan Seth's original written from the perspective of a Trump supporter ("His words aren't that important / It's the way he makes us feel") or Tom Egel's pandemic-era update of the traditional "Hesitation Blues" ("How long do I have to wait / Can I go outside now or must I hesitate?").

The performances vary widely—from covers to originals, from Spanish classical guitar to bluesy piano and folk tunes, and from amateur musicians to performers with decades of experience. The one constant is the musicians' sense of sincere appreciation and love for one another. Between performances, when their mics are unmuted, they exchange compliments and their longing to be in the same room again.

But gratitude for their temporary online home is clear. "I didn't know anyone when I first came [to the jam]," Jan Jones says. "Now ... you all are just near and dear to my heart. You're my buddies. If I had to go all that time without seeing you, it would just be terrible."

The Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam takes place Sundays at 7 p.m. Visit meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam to learn more and join a future session.

—Patrick Dunn

★ Denotes a free event

for meeting URL. Free to visitors (\$52 annual dues).

16 TUESDAY

"**Singing OUT:** The Ark.

Online concert presented by the Ark and billed as "a celebration of LGBTQ+ pride," with songwriters Heather Mae ("the queer Adele") and the stylistically diverse Crys Matthews. 8 p.m., preregister at SideDoorAccess.com/shows/uy3Ctd7O6TerA15Pd3FZ for livestream URL. Tickets \$15. 761-1451.

17 WEDNESDAY

"**Solstice Sonata Serenade Livestream:** Northside Community Church.

Cellist Thor Sigurdson and pianist Kathryn Goodson perform a program including Beethoven's Sonata in A Major and Brahms's Sonata in E Minor. 9 p.m., visit ncca2.org or Facebook.com/ncca2 for livestream URL. Free, donations for cause TBA suggested. kgoodson@umich.edu

18 THURSDAY

"**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants:** UMMA Book Club.

All invited to join a discussion of Robin Wall

Kimmerer's 2015 book, led by Detroit-based Powhatan storyteller and U-M Afro-American and African Studies program manager Elizabeth James. 7 p.m., preregister at bit.ly/ummaclub for meeting URL. Free.

★ "**Yahtzee over Zoom.**" All invited to play this dice game over video chat. Participants must have dice, Yahtzee scoresheets, and an understanding of the game. 7 p.m., email Tom Gottsman at thomasjg46@hotmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★ **Rebecca Loebe Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** This Austin singer-songwriter has been championed by Livingston Taylor, her teacher at the Berklee College of Music. Tonight she revisits her first and most commercially successful album, *Mystery Prize*, on its 10th anniversary. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar/2020-06 for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

19 FRIDAY

★ **Jen Sygit Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Lansing singer-songwriter Sygit (rhymes with "dig it") carries forward influences from Gillian Welch, Patty Griffin, Bonnie Raitt, and Lucinda Williams. She has a new album, *It's About Time*, produced by Jack White bassist Dominic John Davis. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar

for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

20 SATURDAY

★“Online Meeting Tools Part 2”: MacTechnics. Fred Seitz, MacTechnics VP of Education, continues May’s discussion about virtual meetings. Tentatively planned as a video conference. 11 a.m.–1 p.m., email Contact@MacTechnics.org or see MacTechnics.org for location updates.

Summer Solstice Celebration: Michigan Friends Center. Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass and your own table setting; water & herbal iced tea provided. Followed at 7 p.m. by a bonfire with singing, storytelling, and discussion. Bring a favorite outdoor game, verse, story, song, or bit of seasonal lore to share. Check mfCenter.org for event updates. 6–9 p.m., **Michigan Friends Center**, 7448 Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea. Donations appreciated; preregistration requested. 475-0942, Manager@MFCenter.org

21 SUNDAY

★“Scattergories over Zoom.” All invited to play this creative-thinking word game over video chat. No Scattergories game required, but participants must have a pen and several sheets of paper numbered 1–12. Please familiarize yourself with the rules prior to playing. Hosted by Tom Gottsman. 7 p.m., email Tom Gottsman at thomasjg46@hotmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★**Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Traditional American music by an ensemble led by the duo of fiddler Ungar and guitarist Mason, best known from their frequent guest appearances on *A Prairie Home Companion*. Their repertoire includes a wide range of traditional and vintage American songs, along with many striking originals cut from traditional cloth. Ungar is best known for his “Ashokan Farewell,” the haunting theme from the Grammy-winning soundtrack to Ken Burns’s *The Civil War*. 7:30 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

22 MONDAY

★“A Dialogue About the Definition of Sex”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition. Panel discussion with U-M law professor Maureen Carroll and SAGEMetro Detroit director Angie Perone about the current arguments to the Supreme Court on whether Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act’s prohibition against discrimination on “the basis of sex” includes sexual orientation and gender identity. 10 a.m.–noon, meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before the event. Free. 998-9351.

23 TUESDAY

★**Skazat! Poetry Series Remote Edition.** Reading by Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, a Michigan-based experimental poet whose

2019 collection, *A Wake with Nine Shades*, is a Dantean descent through a contemporary midlife crisis. Preceded by an open mic. 7–8:30 p.m., preregister at Facebook.com/Skazat for meeting URL. Free. 994-6663.

★**Virtual Play Reading Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble.** All invited to join members of this local ensemble to read a part in a play TBA. Listeners welcome. 6:30 p.m., see Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble for meeting URL. Free. BTEpublicity.com

24 WEDNESDAY

★**Arnold Johnston Livestream: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Reading by this Kalamazoo-based poet, actor-singer, and award-winning playwright who writes about everything from the redemption of Grigori Efimovich Rasputin—the so-called Mad Monk who wielded influence in the court of Russia’s last Tsar—to his experience walking along the shores of Lake Michigan. 7–8:45 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★**Zachariah Malachi Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Classic-style honky-tonk from this Detroiter recently relocated to Nashville. 7:30 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar/2020-06 for livestream URL. Free. 761-1451.

26 FRIDAY

★**Chris Smither Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Veteran folk and blues singer-songwriter best known for 2 songs Bonnie Raitt has made her own, “I Feel the Same” and “Love Me Like a Man.” Smither is also a wonderfully lyrical and expressive guitarist (Raitt calls him “my Eric Clapton”) and an intense, enrapturing singer whose voice ranges from growling undertones to a keening falsetto. He recently released his career-spanning retrospective CD *Still on the Levee*. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

28 SUNDAY

★**LezRead Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss a book TBA. 4–6 p.m., see a2LezRead.tumblr.com for location updates. Free.

★**Michael McDermott Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Chicago-based singer-songwriter whom novelist Stephen King calls “one of the best songwriters in the world and possibly the greatest undiscovered rock ‘n’ roll talent of the last 20 years.” His 2016 album, *Willow Springs*, a collection of songs inspired by the darker moments in his past, has prompted comparisons to Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen. He has a brand-new release, “What in the World.” 7:30 p.m., see TheArk.org/shows-events/calendar/2020-06 for livestream URL. Free, donations accepted. 761-1451.

kids calendar

June 6 (3–3:40 p.m.): “Virtual Strum & Drum”: Oz’s Music Environment. Families invited to sing and make music on a variety of instruments, including anything with strings, drums, pots & pans, and other noise makers. Free, preregister at bit.ly/ozstrumanddrum for meeting URL. 662-8283.

June 6 (7:30 p.m.): “Family Mew-Vie Night”: Tiny Lions. Screening of a movie TBA. Also, snuggles with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. *Tiny Lions Lounge & Adoption Center*, 5245 Jackson. \$10 in advance at TinyLions.org/MewvieNights. 661-3575.



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Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the July issue is June 10.

Your best resource for preservation and historic district questions: **JILL THACHER**, Ann Arbor city planner and historic district coordinator. jthacher@aa2gov.org. (734) 794-6265 x42608

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 47? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, June 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, June 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Services

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Publisher



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ANN ARBOR HILLS - This custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath Colonial is a rare find in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. Custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, open concept floor plan, family room with fireplace, all-hardwood flooring, dream master suite with vaulted ceilings and spa-like bath, great sized kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level with rec and exercise room, bedroom, and bath. \$1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This classic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial rests on a gorgeous hilltop lot in a prime section of Ann Arbor Hills. You will love this setting with mature trees, large backyard, and patio. The interior is gorgeous! Highlights include all-hardwood floors, original trim, updated kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, living room with fireplace, sun room, den, master suite with remodeled master bath, 2nd bedroom suite, and finished basement. Angell Elementary. \$1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS - Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2-acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home with panoramic views of the #1 hole. This home is just stunning inside and out. The exterior features extensive landscaping, large deck, and screened porch. Interior highlights include family room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, luxury master suite with sitting room and spa like bath, and finished walkout basement. \$799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL PARK - This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YORK MEADOWS - Incredible 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath colonial on a spacious 1.4-acre lot backing to common area. You will love this setting with panoramic pond views, extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio with fire pit. The interior is gorgeous. Highlights include two-story family room with fireplace, large cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with great bath and huge closet, and finished basement with bar, two rec spaces, bedroom, and bath. \$649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - Stuning, 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - ARBORETUM AREA - Pristine 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot walking distance to the Arboretum, Gallup Park, and UM campus. The setting is special with great landscaping, nice deck, and large backyard with mature trees. The interior is ready for your cosmetic updates and features hardwood floors in most rooms, family room with fireplace, spacious living room and dining room, updated kitchen, great master suite, and nice-sized kids' bedrooms. \$599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ARBORETUM - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to Downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. \$529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - LANSDOWNE - Wonderful 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Colonial on one of the best lots in the neighborhood backing to Lansdowne Park. This home has been perfectly cared for and is move-in condition. The setting is gorgeous with large backyard, extensive landscaping, and great deck. Interior highlights include family room with fireplace, large formal living and dining rooms, kitchen with lots of counter space, great master suite, and nice sized kids' bedrooms. You will love this home! \$519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - TRAVIS POINTE SOUTH - Updated 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Colonial on a gorgeous acre+ lot in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. The setting for this home is incredible on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with great landscaping and huge backyard. The interior is move-in condition and features remodeled kitchen with maple cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, open concept family room with fireplace, flex-use den/living room, spacious master suite with remodeled bath, nice size kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - OAK MEADOWS CONDO - Perfect 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath townhouse in one of Ann Arbor's most desired complexes. This condo features fresh paint and new flooring throughout. Highlights include kitchen with granite counter tops, Brazilian cherry floors on the main level, living room with fireplace, nice master suite with vaulted ceilings, 2 nice-sized extra bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room and full bath. \$299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! \$1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN - Incredible 5-bedroom, 6 1/2-bath custom-built home overlooking Radrick Farms Golf Course. This home was built to the highest standards. The setting is special with great outdoor living spaces. Interior highlights include gourmet kitchen with Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances, two-story great room, luxury master bedroom suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, spa-like baths, and finished walkout basement! \$1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE SCHOOLS - This stately 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath custom-built home is set on an incredible 7-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor and all freeways. Highlights include manicured grounds with patio, covered bridge, in-ground pool, 60' x 100' pole barn, two-story great room with stone fireplace, incredible kitchen with professional appliances, luxury first floor master suite with spa like bath, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bar, exercise, and home theater. \$1,395,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE ESTATES - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath all-brick and stone home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views of common area and pond. This home was constructed to the highest standards seen in our area. Highlights include one of the nicest residential pools you will find, custom kitchen with granite and Viking/SubZero appliances, open concept family room, Solarium, luxury master suite with brand new bath, and finished walkout basement with 2nd kitchen, large rec room, and additional flex-use rooms. \$1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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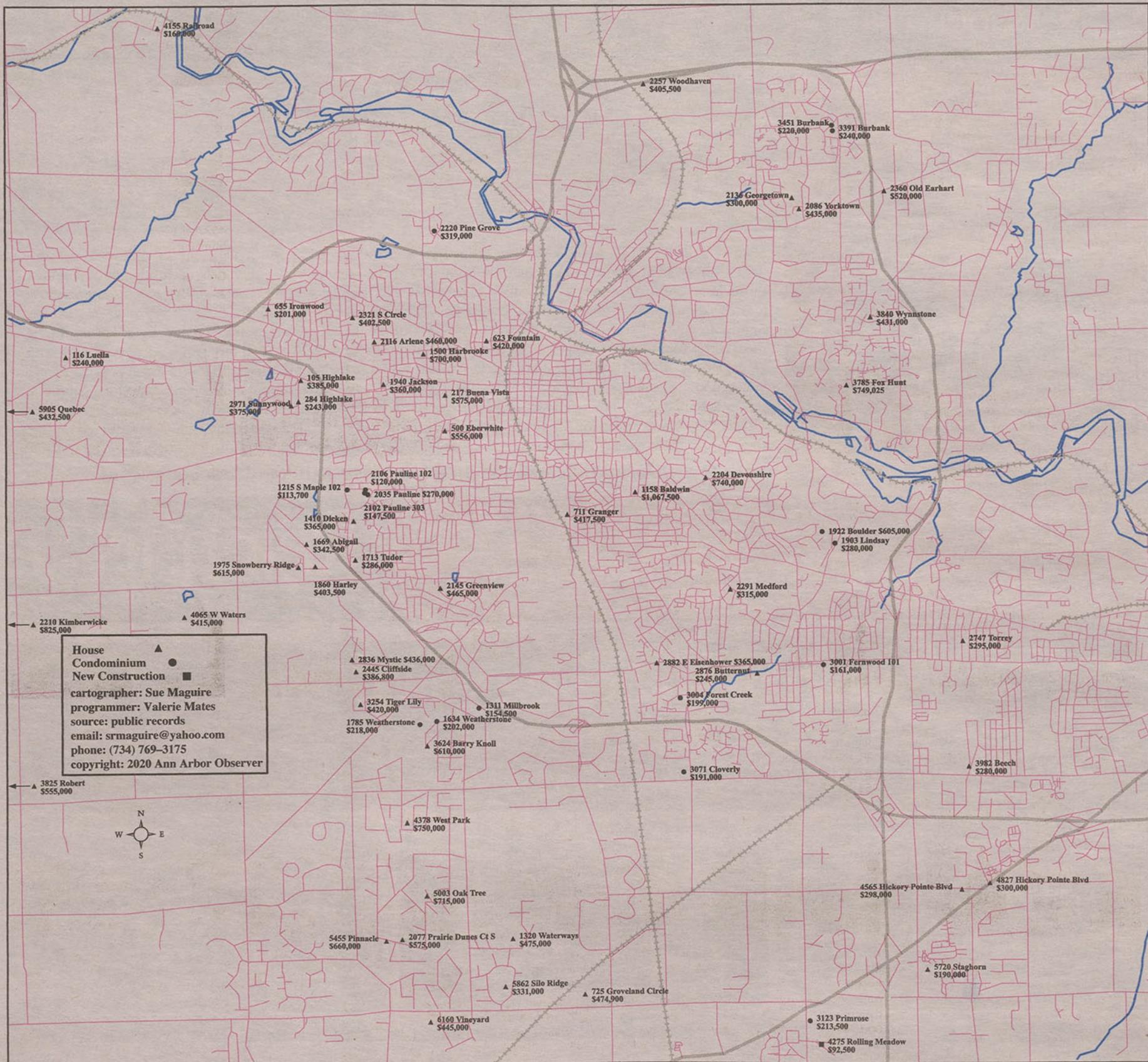
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APRIL 2020

HOME SALES



Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdown, home sales are still taking place in the Ann Arbor Public School district—and at nearly the same prices as last April. Using data from the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service (excluding homes newly constructed or “to be built”) the median sales price of single-family homes sold in April 2020 was \$400,000, down less than 1 percent from 2019’s \$403,000. Condos prices were down 3 percent, to \$218,000 from \$225,000.

But there were many fewer sales: single-family sales were down 21 percent, from ninety-five to seventy-five, and con-

dos dropped 38 percent, from fifty-six to thirty-five. And new listings plunged—65 percent for single-families, from 165 to 57, and 58 percent for condos, from ninety-six to forty.

Just sixty-nine sales appear on this month’s map. It is based on public records, and with the Washtenaw County Register of Deeds office closed to the public through May 28, it’s likely that the recording of property transfers has been delayed.

The lowest priced single-family home on our map was in the Lakeview sub on the city’s far west side. Selling for \$243,000, the 912-square-foot, three-bedroom, one-

bath ranch came with a 2.5 car garage and over a quarter of an acre yard. The least expensive condo was a garden-level one-bedroom at 1215 S. Maple in Summit View that sold for \$113,700.

High end condos remain popular. An 1,849-square-foot, two-bedroom, three-bath unit at 1922 Boulder Dr. bordering Mallett’s Creek in the Huron Chase development sold for \$605,000.

Million-dollar homes are still selling in the time of Covid. The Craftsman-styled home at 1158 Baldwin is an expansive 4,084 square feet with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths. It sits on a dou-

ble lot facing Burns Park, and sold for \$1,067,500.

The executive order that severely restricted access to homes covered the entire month of April. Any homes listed, and any newly listed homes viewed, were done so only virtually (with a few exceptions revolving around inspections of those homes), but listings and sales continued.

Most of the homes selling had already been on the market. The others will get their real-life chance to show with the lessening of restrictions that began on May 7.

—Sue Maguire

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LUXURY HOMES

THE EXPERT IN THE SALE OF FINE HOMES



4621 Old Oak Court, Ann Arbor Schools

Gorgeous luxury home in newer Superior Twp. neighborhood, situated on 2-plus acres with pond. 4-car garage, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. \$650,000. Brandee Wiseman 734-604-0411. #3265891



2510 Bedford Road, Ann Arbor Hills

Stately brick colonial on almost an acre in Ann Arbor Hills. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with 1st floor study. Move in ready. \$695,000. Susan Snyder 734-395-6924. #3271664



6530 Heron Court, Pheasant Hollow

Custom 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath ranch on .75 acres in Lodi Twp. Hardwood floors, den with built-ins, great room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen, finished lower level. \$750,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3272924



3113 Miller Road, Scio Township

Minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and Dexter. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. 1st floor master. Finished lower level with bar, sauna, fitness room and en-suite bedroom. \$919,000. Deb Odom Stern 734-604-3704. #3271931



402 Awixa Road, Geddes/Arboretum Area

Stunning renovation of 1,925 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3-car garage. Great location near Arb and campus. \$1,200,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3271090



2301 Blueberry Lane, Ann Arbor Township

Mid-Century Modern 5 bedroom, 3 bath on private setting. Wall of windows overlooks spectacular wooded views. Trex deck, 2-car garage. Minutes to downtown Ann Arbor! \$650,000. Rachel Robinson 734-649-7029. #3272878



1845 Lansdowne Road, Ann Arbor

Handsome ranch on 1.8 acres with many updates! 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths. Lovely sunroom with access to deck. Walkout lower level to patio. \$749,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3272702



3880 Penberton Drive, King School

Great location! Spacious contemporary 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath on quiet cul-de-sac, walk to King School! 2016 2-level addition. Finished walkout. \$750,000. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3272477



2 Shipman Circle, Nichols Arboretum

One of the best locations in town! Cul-de-sac off Geddes Rd. Walk to Arb, campus. Craftsman style home with modern amenities. \$1,050,000. Trish Edwards 734-368-0094. #3271054



6 Geddes Heights, Ann Arbor

Charm, class and elegance that is hard to match, on one of the most coveted streets in Ann Arbor. This impressive home has been beautifully preserved. \$1,250,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3265276



210 Spring Lake Drive, Spring Lake - Chelsea

Stunning year-round home with 200+/- feet on Spring Lake. Custom 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with top quality finishes. Wonderful views! \$670,000. Felice Fergel 734-223-4455. #3271023



9734 Waters Road, Ann Arbor

Glorious 78 acre farm with numerous outbuildings, many updates, horse barn and stalls, pond, creek, rolling terrain, gorgeous! \$749,900. Rick Taylor 734-223-5656. #3272981



1826 Brookview Drive, Brookview Highlands

Stunning 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with nearly 3,900 livable sq. ft. Finished lower level with wet bar, rec area and 5th bedroom. Expansive deck, in-ground salt water pool. \$775,000. Elke VanDyke 734-635-3150. #3272478



2333 Tall Oaks Drive, Newport Creek Sub.

Prime location! Beautiful 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath backs to woods. 2-story family room with stone fireplace, study with French doors, finished lower level. Near downtown Ann Arbor. \$1,075,000. Michal Porath 734-395-0650. #3272559



3905 Preserve Drive, Dexter

Stunning, one-of-a-kind 5 bedroom, 4 full, 2 half bath on 1.5 acres with "up north" feel. 8,215 livable sq. ft. Custom details throughout. Finished walkout lower level. \$1,495,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3272414



980 Bennaville Avenue, Birmingham

Beautiful Birmingham home with bonus room over the garage. New roof on home and garage, new furnace, A/C and wine fridge. \$675,000. Nina Weina 734-834-3401. #3272822



5854 Tyler Court, Hartman Farms

Beautiful home with upgrades galore! 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on private lot with water views. Finished lower level with theatre area. Trex deck & more! \$749,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3271995



602 E Ann Street, Downtown Ann Arbor

Historic, 1886 Queen Anne home. Preserved period details mixed with modern amenities. Lovely landscaped backyard. Walk to downtown, campus, hospital. \$775,000. Anne Sloan 734-476-3444. #3272834



5403 Waldenhill Court, Glennborough

Striking, pristine home. So many luxury finishes including Chef's kitchen with SubZero refrigerator, Wolf range and much more! \$1,075,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3270994



8786 W Liberty Road, Ann Arbor

30 Acre country estate in Ann Arbor, minutes from town, offering privacy and serenity with 5,500 sq. ft. home and plenty of room for animals. Dexter Schools. \$1,549,000. Jeff Klink 734-260-7483. #3266930



1720 Glenwood Road, Ann Arbor Hills

4 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch on double lot! Wonderfully landscaped, 4-season sunporch, walkout lower level, composite deck. \$675,000. Lisa Ridha 734-395-2586. #3272161



3745 Tremont Lane, King Elementary

Beautiful, renovated, open 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath on cul-de-sac. Island kitchen with quartz, expanded family room with fireplace. Walk to King Elementary! \$749,900. Ed Ridha 734-645-3110. #3272962



2045 Rouse Creek Court, Lake Forest

Absolutely gorgeous 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home in Lake Forest. Over 5,500 sq. ft. of finished living space. Stunning custom features! \$795,000. Laurie Buys 734-658-7158. #3271897



3212 W Dobson Place, The Woodlands

This stunning home in The Woodlands sits on a spectacular wooded lot in NE Ann Arbor with 4,200 sq. ft. plus a finished lower level. \$1,150,000. Matt Miller 734-476-4869. #3265530



2342 Highland Drive, Woodlands of Geddes Glen Stunning 5,516 sq. ft. custom colonial backing to UM's Radrick Farms Golf Course. 4 bedrooms, 4.2 baths, gourmet kitchen, 4-car garage. \$1,595,000. Cristie Wilson 734-669-6818. # 3271817

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

May's I Spy "is part of the outer facade of the new Pretzel Bell restaurant," says Molly Power—and which "I still think of as where the Parthenon restaurant should be," admits David Karl. There's "a bell above the main entrance hence the clue, 'bell nearby.'"

The clue "threw us for a loop," wrote Bob and Mary Maddox, who first thought of the Burton Bell Tower area. They weren't alone—we received two entries for Rackham and one for the State Theatre. But Kit McCullough found it "too easy!" He says the "wonderful Deco canopy," originally painted mint green, "especially suited the Cuban restaurant" that followed Parthenon, referring to Lena—whose sign, Ken Koral remembers, was featured years ago. This "Streamline Moderne ... awning dates to about 1940," adds Eric Sobociński who is grateful that all owners "have kept this little gem intact."



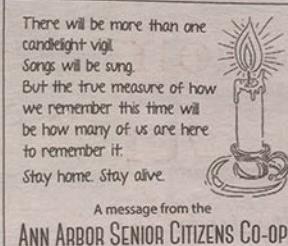
Rear view

"My first memory of this building [is] Cunninghams," writes Treese Roth. "This was the downtown location of that Detroit pharmacy chain," says Louisa Griffes who points out that their stores were designed by architect Charles Agree. According to Susan Wineberg, "the canopy is from the Cunningham days [but] the bricks ... are quite old," dating back to the Mack & Co. department store that occupied the space between 1860 and the 1930s.

We received thirty-one correct entries in May. Our random drawing winner is Jamie Haberichter who will enjoy a \$25 gift certificate to Zingerman's. To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.

by Jay Forstner

At a time when scientists are simultaneously being vilified and expected to save us all from the pandemic, it was wonderful to hear from the Fake Ad Czar's ninth grade biology teacher, Martha Friedlander. "After going through Observer three times hunting for the Fake Ad, we finally discovered it on page 54 in the 'Services' ads," Friedlander wrote. "It is at the top of the second column in the category of 'Health' ads, from the Ann Arbor Senior Citizens Co-Op. Mr. Gilson's name can be found in the end of the word 'vigil' and the beginning of the word 'Songs.' We realized that the message wasn't quite what we had expected and that the senior citizen's group wasn't a co-op. Very clever advertising!! Thanks



for keeping our quarantine interesting!" Thank you, Mrs. Friedlander, for explaining the ad as well as you explained how to dissect a fetal pig.

Several Fake Adders agreed with the thought behind the ad. "The entire message was nice at this time of the pandemic," wrote Ginny Wengate, "but it was hard to find!" We received only fifty-five correct entries, including this one from Janine Shahinian: "I nominate this ad for the second edition of the Best Fake Ads of All time." Shahinian is referring, of course, to *The Fake Ad Book*, a compendium of nearly thirty years of advertising fakery (to order, see ad on page 48 or go online to annarborobserver.com/books).

May's winner is Garret Huff, who will enjoy his gift card at Seva.

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on June 10th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.



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We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our May drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

May winners:
Dave V. & John V.

If you would like to be entered in the June drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 40, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by June 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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JUNE ONLINE EVENTS



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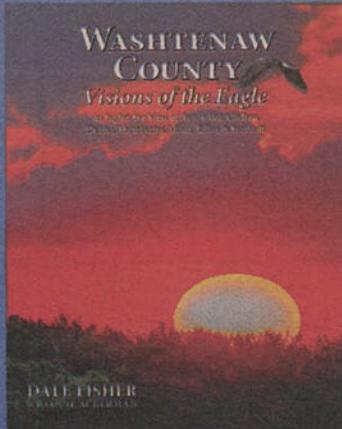
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NEW RELEASE FROM
DALE FISHER!



Visions of the Eagle



After more than sixty years of capturing images through the open door of a helicopter, and a dozen books, it is time for Dale's final edition. Enjoy the spectacular images from Dale's eagle eye perspective in the pages of *Washtenaw County: Visions of the Eagle*.

Price: \$65 + Shipping \$7 • Expected Delivery: June 2020
Order your copy today at AnnArborObserver.com/Books

Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 34. Films: p. 37. Galleries: p. 37. Kids: p. 39.

►Reviewed in this issue. See p. 38.

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ann Arbor Potters Guild online spring sale, June 6 & 7

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Online panel on Covid-19 and black reparations, June 6
- Virtual dialogue on the definitions of sex, June 22
- Experimental poet Jennifer Sperry Steinorth livestream, June 23
- Poet, actor-singer, and playwright Arnold Johnston livestream, June 24

Family & Kids' Stuff

See our *Kids Calendar*, p. 39 and *Alternative Activities*, p. 35 for most kids events.

- Virtual strum & drum, June 6
- Recycling chat and virtual craft, June 13

Miscellaneous

- Korean cooking virtual demos, every Wed.
- Virtual half marathon and 5K, June 1
- Virtual Scandinavian music jam, June 8 & 22

“Only in Ann Arbor” Event of the Month

- Scattergories over Zoom, June 21

I Spy... Something New

The Fake Ad and I Spy contests are a beloved tradition in the monthly Ann Arbor Observer. Jay Forstner and Sally Bjork are collecting some of their favorites in two new books.



- I Spy... Architecture*
- The Fake Ad Book / 47 of the Best Fake Ads of All Time*

AVAILABLE JUNE 2020.

Pre-order online at AnnArborObserver.com/Books, Email Books@aaobserver.com, or leave voicemail at (734) 769-3175 extension 301.

\$19.95 each, or both for \$29.95.

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SUMMER CAMPS

June-July-August

ALL SUMMER EVENING CAMP
for 4-19 year olds

DUTCH SOCCER SCHOOL DAY CAMP

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STREET SOCCER CAMP

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CRUSH CORE VALUES

CRUSH players are
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skills + smarts + style
winning is important
winning and being a class
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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

WE CONGRATULATE CRUSH PLAYERS
COMPETING ON ALL LOCAL FRESHMEN + JV
AND VARSITY TEAMS IN THE ANN ARBOR
AND SURROUNDING AREAS

WE ARE PROUD THAT MANY CURRENT AND
FORMER CRUSH COACHES PROVIDE EXCELLENT
LEADERSHIP AT DEXTER + HURON + FATHER GA-
BRIEL RICHARD + PIONEER + SALINE
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ANN ARBOR CRUSH IS WHERE PLAYERS
AND COACHES PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

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WE ALWAYS STRIVE TO PROVIDE OUTSTANDING
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL CRUSH PLAYERS

BRIEDABLIK FC IN ICELAND • DUTCH SOCCER SCHOOL
AJAX AMSTERDAM AND AZ ALKMAAR



- overseas training for players
- overseas tours for teams
- professional scouting
- coaching education



ANN ARBOR CRUSH

seminars for players and parents
offered by DUTCH SOCCER SCHOOL

- what is player development
- what makes a good youth club
- what predicts long term success
- what is good youth training
- what are best coaching practices

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An open letter to the communities we serve.

Who could have imagined the struggles that all of us would encounter from this unprecedented global pandemic? Not only has it brought our state and country great economic stress, but it also has changed how healthcare services will be delivered forevermore.

Early in the crisis, IHA's healthcare providers and staff took multiple steps to help our community respond to the pandemic. Within a matter of days, our medical group opened drive-thru testing sites, implemented a free on-line COVID screening tool, and designated locations where patients with fevers and upper respiratory symptoms could be treated. Additionally, we rolled-out video appointments for all our patients and began piloting home care visits for our most vulnerable patients.

These are complicated times with rapidly changing standards, which is why IHA has been providing regular updates to our staff and providers, as well as our patients. In a matter of weeks, IHA has addressed the most significant and complex changes to face healthcare in our lifetime, but we are not done. We are moving toward what many are calling the "new normal."

Staying safe in the "new normal".

Video appointments continue to be our primary method used to treat patients. Since launching this service just a few weeks ago, we have completed nearly 25,000 video appointments. The decline in new COVID cases is enabling IHA to reconnect in-person with patients whose appointments, surgeries or outpatient procedures were cancelled. **Over the next two weeks, our physicians and practitioners will slowly increase the number of in-person appointments they offer and surgeries they perform.** As we reopen more offices, we want to assure you that we are committed to being both responsive and responsible, navigating these unusual times with everyone's safety in mind.

Numerous safeguards and quality measures are in place across IHA to care for COVID and Non-COVID patients. These include our use of telehealth visits which are actively being embraced by our patients and our providers alike.

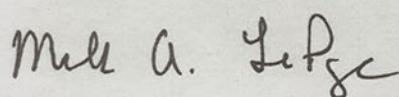
IHA is following CDC guidelines and has put additional cleaning and screening processes in place to keep anyone entering an IHA building safe. These processes include requiring all staff and patients to wear masks and having their temperature checked before entering a practice. Along with maintaining appropriate social distancing, items such as hand sanitizer and tissues will be prominent in every location.

Saving lives, improving quality of life.

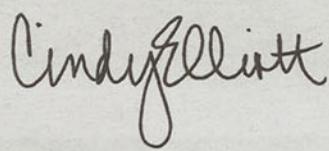
Our difficult journey is not over, but we must look to the future. Children need to maintain their immunization schedules, older adults or those with complex medical issues need their health and medications regularly monitored, and further delaying surgeries or exploratory procedures may cause serious harm or lead to other health problems. The steps we are following to reopen are being implemented with extreme care and will be constantly evaluated. As a member of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, we are working together on safety and security protocols. We have developed COVID-Free Zones, areas where we provide care only for people not known to have COVID-19 or COVID symptoms. We wish to assure the community that our healthcare delivery system is working closer than ever to keep your health and wellness at the center of everything.

Over the past two months, no one industry has learned more than healthcare about the need to change and adapt quickly in order to care for those we serve. Our lives have drastically changed but fulfilling IHA's mission of healing will remain with us forever. Please know that we stand ready to care for you. IHA's motto "**our family caring for yours**" has never meant more to us than it does today.

We encourage you to call your provider's office or visit ihacares.com today to learn about the many ways we can connect and safely provide the care that you need. IHA is here for you.



Mark LePage, MD
IHA CEO



Cindy Elliott, RN
IHA President & COO



IHAcares.com

**Our family *caring*
for yours!**